FBIS DAILY REPORT

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GENERAL KUNTSEVICH RESPONDS TO QUESTIONS ON CW

DW131125 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 12 Apr 82 pp 185-189

[Andreas Lorenz interview with Soviet Maj Gen Anatoliy Kuntsevich in Moscow; date not given]

[Text] SPIEGEL: Herr Major-General, the U.S. Government plans the mass production of new chemical combat agents. Will the Soviet Union now also intensify the production of these weapons?

Kuntsevich: The Soviet Union is being confronted with extremely dangerous facts it has to take into account.

SPIEGEL: What does that mean concretely?

Kuntsevich: The Soviet Union is a powerful state. It has a large scientific-technological potential which gives it the possibility of reacting to every challenge. This does not have to be in the field of chemical combat agents.

SPIEGEL: Could you say it more clearly?

Kuntsevich: They could be conventional weapons, but they could also be other weapons, depending on the concrete situation. Therefore, the Soviet Union does not have to react to an escalation of chemical weapons through an escalation in the same sector.

SPIEGEL: But it would be possible?

Kuntsevich: Everything depends on the other side which considers itself our potential adversary. Our basic attitude is unchanged: The USSR thinks that chemical weapons must be outlawed. It is not preparing a first use of these weapons.

SPIEGEL: Then why does it possess chemical weapons at all?

Kuntsevich: The Soviet Union was one of the first states to join the Geneva Protocol on banning chemical and bacteriological weapons. Throughout its existence it has never used these chemical weapons. (SPIEGEL footnote: Moscow signed the protocol in 1927 with the provision that the agreement would become ineffective "toward every enemy state whose armed forces and/or real or supposed allies do not observe the protocol.")

SPIEGEL: This doen't answer my question.

Kuntsevich: That depends. In the most difficult years of the Great Patriotic War when the German fascists used chemical weapons at Odessa and Kerch the Soviet Union remained cold-blooded and did not let itself be provoked. (SPIEGEL footnote: According to the Soviet military encyclopedia reportedly "smoke mixed with gas" was used against Red Army members hiding in quarries in Kerch in 1942 -- possibly flame-throwers. According to the same source neither of the warring parties used "chemical weapons.") We were aware of the consequences a large-scale chemical war can have for the nations.

SPIEGEL: You are being evasive. The Americans base their chemical weapons decision on the Soviet superiority in this field.

Kuntsevich: The assertions and fantastic data of this type, on allegedly 700,000 tons of Soviet chemical combat agents, are known to us. All estimates and figures the West operates with are mere inventions.

SPIEGEL: The neutral Peace Research Institute Sipri in Stockholm has also calculated a Soviet lead in this respect.

Kuntsevich: These are vague assumptions which are not in line with reality. The theses of American inferiority is unfounded.

SPIEGEL: But can you give concrete figures?

Kuntsevich: The concrete data are state secrets, also with the Americans. However, we are definitely against chemical war. Unlike the Reagan administration, we don't see any advantage in chemical combat agents and we don't want to achieve unilateral superiority.

SPIEGEL: The Americans ratified the Geneva Protocol in 1975. Isn't that enough for you as a guarantee?

Kuntsevich: It's true that they ratified the convention half a century later than we did. Immediately after, a campaign was started in the United States for the production of binary weapons....

SPIEGEL: ...Bombs and grenades filled with two relatively harmless agents which combine upon use to become a lethal mixture.

Kuntsevich: The existing stocks have not been destroyed. As for the stocks: After World War II the Americans brought German patents and chemists into the United States and very soon organized with them the production of the combat agent Sarin. Since the mid-fifties the United States has had a quantitative and qualitative variety of chemical arsenals.

SPIEGEL: The Soviets also dismantled industries.

Kuntsevich: That's right. By resolution of the allied control council we dismantled a factory producing Tabun. But we destroyed the stocks.

SPIEGEL: You reproach the United States with having continued to develop chemical weapons. Washington for its part blames the Soviet Union for not having been inactive during the American 12-year halt of production from 1969 to 1981.

Kuntsevich: In the course of these 12 years the U.S. chemical weapons advocates were not idle. They carried out a mass test, unprecedented in history, against the people and their environment in Indochina.

The number of all victims in Vietnam is 1,600,000; 48 percent of the wooded areas were destroyed. Some 60,000 U.S. soldiers were wounded and suffered poisonings of various degrees. By the way, this shows how strong the chemical forces were.

The argument that "agent orange" which was used there was no combat agent but merely a strong defoliating agent also covers up the facts. Many chemicals only become weapons in certain concentrations. This even holds true for some medicaments like curare, for instance.

One thing is clear, however: The stocks, roughly 4 stockpiles in the Federal Republic, still exist. They are sufficient to destroy all of the European people. The decision on setting up a chemical agent factory in Pine Bluff means that the Americans now also want to bring binary agents to Europe. By the way, the United States has been working on this technology for 15 or 20 years.

SPIEGEL: Referring to the lowest estimates, the Soviet Union has at least 80,000 men specially equipped for defense against chemical and bacteriological weapons. This is ten times as many as in the U.S. Army. To many observers this is an indication of the fact that the Soviet army is also better equipped for war with offensive chemical weapons than the West.

Kuntsevich: Our measures of defense are determined by the degree of the threat against us and our allies. It is not so easy to compare the strengths of chemical defense forces. In addition to the mentioned 60,000 men in Vietnam there were many specialists in the Federal Republic and elsewhere. Our efforts for chemical defense are indispensable for the mere reason that there is no universal convention on the ban of chemical weapons.

By the way, a good training is historically justified. During the Civil War the Germans used chemical weapons in the Ukraine, and the British in the north. Then there were Odessa and Kerch during the Patriotic War. Finally we must remember that today the chemical defense forces assume also the functions of nuclear defense.

SPIEGEL: U.S. Secretary of State Haig recently reiterated his charge that the Soviet Union backed the use of chemical agents in Southeast Asia and used such weapons in Afghsnistan.

Kuntsevich: The small contingent of the Soviet army in Afghanistan has never possessed and does not possess chemical weapons. There is an Afghan Government statement that the Afghan Army neither possesses nor uses chemical weapons. These are facts. Nonetheless, chemical combat agents produced in Pennsylvania in 1978 were found there. At the time President Carter said he presumed that these weapons had come to Afghanistan via Iran. By saying this he admitted, first: The U.S. weapons were used by the counterrevolutionaries; second; the Americans supplied such weapons to Iran. In addition, where else?

SPIEGEL: What weapons were they?

Kuntsevich: Chemical handgrenades.

SPIEGEL: Filled with what gas?

Kuntsevich: CS.

SPIEGEL: Isn't that relatively harmless?

Kuntsevich: Not at all. When used in large quantities it is lethal; when used periodically in small quantities it leads to cancerous diseases and mutations in future generations.

SPIEGEL: Haig also refers to evidence by defecting Afghan military officers.

Kuntsevich: Defectors are in a situation where they say whatever is needed. They are just the right people.

SPIEGEL: Since you have such a clear conscience, why was the independent investigation commission set up by the United Nations not allowed to investigate the charges in Afghanistan on the spot?

Kuntsevich: I don't know. This question should not be addressed to me. Afghanistan is a sovereign state.

SPIEGEL: Moscow could have brought its influence to bear on Kabul.

Kuntsevich: If the Afghans were to ask us, we will tell them what we think about it

SPIEGEL: The Americans have made chemical analyses to prove that chemical combat agents were dropped in Southeast Asia.

Kuntsevich: The Americans once before presented a withered leaf with traces of mycotoxins...

SPIEGEL: ... for instance, yellow rain...

Kuntsevich: ... as proof that chemical weapons were used in Cambodia. Serious scientists, including in the West, do not accept this as proof. I don't rule out that the Americans have devised an entirely new type of chemical weapons called mycotoxins. This category includes innumerable natural phenomena. Just check that. Logically the version of mycotoxins and yellow rain does not stand any criticism, because mycotoxins are a hundredfold, even a thousandfold less serious than modern combat agents.

SPIEGEL: They are harmless?

Kuntsevich: They are harmless as compared to Yperid, for instance. They have a natural origin, as it were. They are ordinary fungi or their products. As a scientist I explain their more frequent incidence in the biosphere by the fact that serious environmental harm has been done as a result of the use of chemical combat agents like Agent Orange by the Americans.

The UN expert group working with American evidence also came back from this region and was unabled to confirm the use of mycotoxins as a combat agent.

SPIEGEL: Nor did it rule it out.

Kuntsevich: Then I must say that this group wasn't competent enough. There are very few experts in this field and the Americans exploit this lack of knowledge.

SPIEGEL: Between 1976 and 1980 Soviet and American experts met ten times to negotiate on chemical disarmament. There have been no talks for 21 months now. Is the Soviet Union still willing to negotiate?

Kuntsevich: Our stance is known. We took the initiative for these negotiations. The Soviet Union conducted the negotiations in a constructive spirit and is still prepared to hold a realistic dialogue.

SPIEGEL: Is an agreement possible at all? How is the other side to control whether harmless or lethal combat gas is produced by a factory?

Kuntsevich: If both sides sincerely wish to totally ban chemical weapons it will be possible to find adequate solutions to control on a national basis.

SPIEGEL: National control is not independent.

Kuntsevich: This national control could be completed on an international basis. But you must take into account that up to now we have talked about the traditional types of chemical weapons. However, if binary combat agents appear in the arsenals, control of the production in my view is impossible, because the components of these agents can be quite ordinary chemicals that we use in industry and everyday life.

PRAVDA REVIEWS DISARMAMENT, FALKLAND ISSUES

PM131141 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Apr 82 p 4

[Boris Kotov untitled International Review]

[Text] Love of Peace in Fact

The high level of political activity on the part of the USSR and the other socialist countries aimed at defending the cause of peace and cooperation among the peoples and the mounting support for the Soviet peace program for the eighties and the new peace initiatives put forward by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, plus the rapid development of the mass antiwar movement in the Western countries -- those are the most characteristic and cheering features of the diverse and complex events taking place in the international arena. The past week provides numerous graphic examples.

A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR Foreign Minister, was in the SFRY 4 through 6 April. During the talks, meetings and conversations he had there with the Yugoslav leadership the sides noted with satisfaction the successful development of bilateral mutually advantageous cooperation and voiced the readiness to develop it further. Proceeding from the principle whereby the SFRY welcomes all initiatives aimed at curbing the arms race, the Yugoslav side voiced its positive attitude toward L.I. Brezhenv's proposals.

In April N.A. Tikhonov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, received in Moscow a delegation from the Socialist Republic of Montenegro (SFRY). During the talk emphasis was placed on the great significance which the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia attach to the further consolidation between them of relations of friendship and all-around cooperation based on the principles agreed on during summit meetings.

The foreign press is commenting with interest on the talks held in recent days in Prague between Czechoslovak and Polish leaders. They were new evidence of the strengthening cohesion of the socialist community countries and their united, coordinated actions in the struggle against imperialist intrigues and in support of the USSR's peace initiatives. The talks held in Hanoi between the Foreign Ministers of Vietnam and Hungary also came within the mainstream of the consolidation of fraternal cooperation and the joint quest for effective ways of eliminating the military threat.

The new Soviet arms limitation and disarmament proposals served as the impetus to a vigorous discussion of these problems at the United Nations, particularly at the routine session of the special committee for a world conference on disarmament in New York. The idea for holding such a conference, put forward by the Soviet Union, has met with a broad positive response within the world community.

The Peoples' Struggle is Broadening

With every passing day reports come in from all parts of the world of impressive demonstrations of protest against the plans -- which imperil mankind -- "to upgrade" NATO's armament via the U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles and against Washington's course toward an unbridled nuclear arms race.

A demonstration of 100,000 people in the Italian city of Comiso -- in whose environs it is planned to deploy nuclear missiles -- was held last Sunday under the slogan "No to the Missiles!" An international conference of nongovernmental organizations devoted to the problems of peace has completed its work in the Belgian capital. Medical workers from 31 countries were represented at the second international conference of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, held in Britain.

Demonstrations for the halting of the medium-range nuclear arms race in Europe are also increasing in the FRG. A group of eminent Social Democratic figures headed by E. Eppler, member of the Social Democratic Party of Germany [SPD] Broad Presidium, and O. Lafontaine, chairman of the Saarland Party Organization, came out with a proposal that the next SPD congress appeal to the USSR and the United States to declare a moratorium on medium-range nuclear missiles with Washington's simultaneous renunciation of the deployment of ground-launched and sea-launched cruise missiles and Pershing II missiles. The proposal's authors express themselves in this context in favor of the Soviet Union reducing its "ground-launched missiles targeted on Europe to the 1978 level."

As is well known, the Soviet Union has announced that it is halting the deployment of the SS-20 missiles in the European part of the USSR and that it intends to embark on a unilateral reduction in the number of its medium-range missiles. It has not sought and does not seek military superiority over the West. The Soviet side has stated this frequently, including during L.I. Brezhnev's visits to the FRG in 1978 and 1981. We are in favor of lowering the ceiling of nuclear confrontation in Europe and of disarmament, while strictly observing the principle of equality and identical security.

A keen struggle is under way in the SPD over the initiatives aimed at halting the arms race. It is expected that the issue will also emerge during the congress scheduled for 19 April in Munich.

The struggle for peace is also broadening in the United States. The U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT estimates that over 1 million Americans are now taking an active part in the movement to ban nuclear weapons. The data from polls carried out in the United States attest that 72 percent of all U.S. citizens -- that is, three out of every four people -- advocate freezing the production of nuclear armaments and reaching agreement with the USSR on this question. The majority do not believe the myth of the "Soviet military threat." Two out of every three polled openly stated this.

"Propaganda Marathon"

Official Washington is trying to dash the mounting antiwar wave in its own country and throughout the world. The political maneuvers which in recent days have developed into a veritable "propaganda marathon," as one Western newspaper put it, are aimed at this. The campaign to misinform people and at the same time to manipulate public opinion was conceived and is being implemented in true American style.

The President himself has become its central figure and main protagonist. In the space of some 6 days -- 31 March through 5 April -- he made three public statements.

Two main themes dominated the President's speeches: the intimidating theme -- "Soviet military superiority" -- and the phony peace-loving theme -- Washington's "readiness" for talks with the USSR not simply on freezing nuclear arsenals but also on "sharply reducing them." However, both would occur only after the mythical U.S. "window of vulnerability" had been eliminated by...carrying out the Pentagon's gigantic military programs for "arms upgrading."

The new propaganda show is obviously springing a leak, however. Reagan's allegation of "Soviet strategic superiority," so useful for justifying the nuclear arms race, has given rise to a stream of denials from highly competent officials.

They include Senator D. Moynihan, for instance. "Not a single president with information concerning the sides' existing nuclear arsenals," he stated, "can conclude that the Russians have superiority, because there simply is no superiority. As deputy chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence," the senator explained, "I know as much as the President does about this problem."

Even White House experts disagree with the President's allegations that the Soviet Union wields considerable superiority over the United States in the strategic arms sphere, the well-known observer J. Reston asserts for his part. And even Z. Brezezinski, whose anti-Sovietism has become axiomatic, believes that "to be frank, there is now approximate equilibrium."

Many West European, Japanese and Indian press organs do not hide their disappointment at the U.S. President's statement. "Paradoxical logic," the Paris newspaper LIBERATION remarks. "First we must arm ourselves 'to the teeth' in order then to disarm."

Secretary of State A. Haig followed the President in the operation to "extinguish" the antiwar sentiments. On 6 April at Georgetown University's center for International and Strategic Studies he comprehensively criticized the idea of the speediest freezing of the nuclear weapons of the USSR and the United States and attempted to argue that in order to defend "the main values of Western civilization" Washington cannot allow itself "to agree to pursue a policy of renouncing first use of nuclear weapons." A monstrous statement!

The transatlantic "propaganda marathon" contains many other components. For instance, what price the story of the Soviet Union's alleged violation of the Salt II treaty circulated by the Washington POST, citing information from government circles? The underlying situation here is clear: The Reagan administration, despite the people's insistence, is in no hurry to conduct talks with the USSR on strategic arms limitation and reduction. So it is trying to distract public attention from the well-known Soviet proposals on this vitally important problem.

U.S. official bodies have recently been resorting to filthy slander in an attempt to ascribe to the USSR involvement in the alleged use of chemical weapons in Laos, Kampuchea and Afghanistan. In a note to the U.S. Government this week the USSR Government has lodged a resolute protest against this.

Those are the basic, most unseemly features of the "propaganda marathon" which Washington has launched by no means idly. However, matters cannot be helped here by flowery language, empty rhetoric about "the desire to peace and security" or anti-Soviet stories and slander. The people expect and demand from Washington specific constructive steps going halfway to meet the USSR's peaceful initiatives to eliminate the threat of a nuclear catastrophe and normalize the international climate.

Relapse Into "Gunboat Diplomacy"

Reports on the acute Anglo-Argentine conflict over the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands have occupied a substantial place in the news of the past 7 days. By a Government decree Argentina has declared the islands to be the country's 24th province. It is now preparing strenuously to defend them, for a British naval armada is moving into the South Atlantic. It has been given the intrepid order as of Monday 12 April to sink any warship or auxiliary vessel of the Argentine Navy which it encounters inside the 200-mile "military blockade zone" arbitrarily imposed by London around the disputed islands.

There is no doubt that Britain's attempts to restore colonial status on the islands with the use of force are inadmissible. They directly contradict the well-known UN decisions on decolonizing the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands and also the island of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and threaten peace and security.

The conflict which has now flared up has a long history. For 150 years Britain has ruled this archipelago in the South Atlantic, having seized it from Argentina by force in 1833 and proclaimed it as its colony. In our time -- in January 1966 -- in accordance with a UN General Assembly resolution, Anglo-Argentine talks began with a view to resolving the longstanding dispute. They lasted many years -- until very recently.

And throughout these years British diplomacy has obstinately opposed the fulfillment of the resolution adopted by the United Nations, declining to resolve by peaceful means the dispute with Argentina over sovereignty over the islands. So who, we may ask, is responsible for the suddenly exacerbated situation?

Many states, primarily in Latin America, treat Argentina's position with understanding. They see the islands as age-old Argentine territory illegally seized by the colonialists and to be returned unconditionally.

The NATO states and Common Market countries, which are Britain's allies, have mainly taken London's side. A number have already undertaken to halt any arms supplies to Argentina.

Washington's position is highly ambiguous and delicate. Both Britain and Argentina are official allies of the United States. The former in NATO, the latter through accession to the Inter-American Mutual Aid Treaty. This treaty stipulates that an attack on one of its signatories must be viewed as an attack on all of them, with all the ensuing consequences. In the search for a way out of the prevailing situation U.S. Secretary of State Haig hurriedly left for London on 8 April. Then he went to Buenos Aires. Under cover of an ostensible mediating mission, Washington, many people believe, is in fact acting in the role of "messenger" for the British neocolonialists.

However that may be, the majority of world political observers notes the blatant incongruity between Britain's bellicose actions and the nature and dimensions of a longstanding and chronic dispute. And it is no accident that in recent days even the governments of a number of Common Market countries, including Ireland, Belgium, Denmark and the Netherlands, have voiced concern at the Thatcher Cabinet's tough line.

Some Western press organs note that the British Tories still cannot rid themselves of nostalgia for the "glorious" colonial times when Britain bore the awesome title "ruler of the waves" and "gunboat diplomacy" was common place. There are obviously also more prosaic considerations. London's immoderate escalation of the present conflict betrays its desire to conceal the serious blunders of the Conservative government within the country. But surely that is no reason for bringing matters to the point of unleashing war? Did the ignominious failure of, for instance, the Suez adventure they undertook in 1956 not serve as a lesson to the British Tories?

It is clear to broad circles of the world public that the restoration of the colonial status of the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands in our time is absolutely inadmissible and that the dispute over them can and must be resolved by peaceful negotiations.

U.K. STANCE ON FALKLANDS CRISIS CRITICIZED

PM131421 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Apr 82 p 5

[Dispatch from correspondent A. Maslennikov: "A Dangerous Frenzy"]

[Text] London, 11 Apr -- As these lines are being written a mighty flotilla of the British Navy is being assembled in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean. There is therefore no need to choose the topic of the week in London. Argentina's establishment of control over the remnants of Britain's colonial possessions in the South Atlantic has come as a bombshell here. For the first time since the Suez crisis in 1956 both houses of the British Parliament have sat in emergency sessions. This occurred against the backdrop of sharp criticism of the government's foreign policy and calls for the immediate resignation of the foreign secretary and the secretary of defense, these calls coming not only from opposition spokesmen but also from many of the ruling party's members of Parliament.

The ensuing debate showed once again that by pursuing a foreign policy of anti-Sovietism, heightening East-West tension and striving to regain Britain's irretrievably vanished imperial splendor the country's present Conservative government is increasingly obviously losing its ability to realistically assess the developing international situation and is strikingly deaf to the just demands of the peoples of developing countries. This was shown particularly clearly by Britain's stubborn refusal to comply with the UN resolution on the decolonization of the territories controlled by it in the South Atlantic and by its deliberate dragging-out of the talks on these questions with Argentina.

The same imperial approach is evident in its search for a way out of the present situation. Feeling the ground starting to slip under the government's feet, Prime Minister Thatcher chose to sacrifice one of the most highly-regarded members of her Cabinet -- Foreign Secretary Carrington -- in order to save the Cabinet as a whole and the main thrust of her policy.

Within the last few days additional measures have been taken against the Argentines in the shape of a freeze on Argentine accounts in British banks, an embargo on trade with Buenos Aires, the requisitioning of a number of cargo and passenger ships for military transport purposes, and finally the declaration of a naval blockade of the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands effective in the early morning of 12 April. At the same time London is putting increasing pressure on its EEC and NATO allies in an attempt to get them to adopt punitive measures against Buenos Aires.

All this military and diplomatic frenzy has been accompanied by a vociferous chauvinistic campaign in the rightwing British press and by the publication of all sorts of "public opinion polls" designed to prove that most Britons support the course toward military confrontation with Argentina.

Government spokesmen themselves say that it is still their aim to resolve the conflict by peaceful means. At the same time their utterances are increasingly assuming the tone of threats and ultimatums. During the resumed parliamentary debate on 7 April, Defense Secretary Nott and newly-appointed Foreign Secretary F. Pym declared their willingness to use armed force if diplomatic methods fail to resolve the conflict. Prime Minister M. Thatcher has said on a number of occasions in the last few days that Britain refuses to hold talks with Buenos Aires on the future of the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands until the Argentine troops are withdrawn.

Many British commentators are writing that London's actions are aimed at putting pressure not only on the Argentines but also on Britain's allies under the North Atlantic Treaty, especially the United States, and to enlist their support.

During the last week U.S. President Reagan has been in constant contact with his main NATO ally -- the Thatcher government. At the same time Secretary of State A. Haig has visited London and Buenos Aires with the aim, as the official releases put it, of "rendering friendly services" to the British and Argentine Governments in the search for a peaceful settlement of the conflict which has arisen.

But the role of so-called "honest broker" which the leaders of the Washington administration are trying to play in public inspires the confidence neither of the participants in the conflict nor of local observers. London has good reason for thinking that in the event Britain embarks on a military adventure in the South Atlantic, considerations of NATO's global strategy would inevitably win the day in Washington and that the White House would be forced to openly side with Britain. It is for this reason that official London is now behaving with ostentatious aggressiveness.

In fact, the secret military and political cooperation between London and Washington is already in full swing. British newspaper write that the British Armed Forces are making extensive use of the U.S. military base on Ascension Island in the South Atlantic as a transhipment base and a mustering point from which to conduct hostilities against Argentina. The movement of Argentine Armed Forces, according to press reports, is recorded in detail by U.S. spy satellites and the data obtained is regularly passed on to the British Ministry of Defense. A Brazilian press report that Washington plans to establish military bases of its own the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands has not escaped the public's attention.

All this gives the present conflict in the South Atlantic a still more serious and ominous shape. The outlines of a broad conflict between one of the developing countries of South America and the global strategic interests of imperialist powers who are allies in the aggressive NATO bloc are beginning to take shape.

It must be said that democratic and peace-loving circles in Britain appreciate the scale of the danger. Speaking in the 7 April debate in the House of Commons, the well-known Labour politician A. Benn called on the government to recall the naval squadron dispatched to the South Atlantic since "the risk involved in this action far outweighs the possible benefits and is inconsistent with the aims which the government has an opportunity to pursue on the basis of law." "Dangerously shortsighted" is how P. Noel-Baker, veteran of Britain's antiwar movement and member of the House of Lords, described the Thatcher Cabinet's actions. The newspaper MORNING STAR has branded the government's actions as a resurgence of "the colonialist mentality" and as a desperate attempt to preserve "the imperial confetti of islands in different parts of the world's oceans."

'Imperial Chauvinism'

LD131532 Moscow TASS in English 1517 GMT 13 Apr 82

[Text] Moscow, 13 Apr, TASS -- "The political atmosphere on the banks of the Thames is marked by imperial chauvinism," IZVESTIYA writes today. It points out that Conservative leaders and publicists try to justify the sending of a squadron of 30 ships to the other end of the world to regain Britain's domination over Falkland (Malvinas) Islands.

"It is quite apparent that the scope of London's action go far beyond a local dispute", the newspaper writes. "The Conservative Cabinet shows the readiness to use power to protect British colonial interests not only off the coast of South America but also on other continents. And the longer the Anglo-Argentine crisis goes on, the clearer it becomes that the destiny of the Conservative Cabinet is at stake... Certain persons in London express the hope that the victory in a naval battle or such a conclusion of the conflict which the Conservative backbenchers will regard as a victory will help restore the reputation of the Prime Minister or else Thatcher will have to resign."

Stressing that much depends on the actions of the opposition, IZVESTIYA writes: "The democratic circles become increasingly aware that the escalation of the conflict will enable the Conservatives to camouflage the failure of their economic policy and step up the arms race still more. According to preliminary estimates, the cost of the naval expedition will be no less than 50 million sterling even if the problem is quickly settled through talks. No one is yet able to answer what would be the cost of a prolonged military campaign 8,000 miles away from Britain.

Most people in Britain declare ever more definitely against the use of force and bloodshed. This is shown not only by public opinion polls but also by a demonstration of protest against the militarist course of the Conservative Cabinet, the newspaper writes in conclusion.

ARGENTINA HITS BRITISH MILITARY, ECONOMIC MOVES

LD140856 Moscow TASS in English 0844 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] New York, 14 Apr, TASS -- Argentina has accused Britain of grossly violating the U.N. Security Council's resolution on the conflict over the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands. In a letter circulated at the U.N. headquarters the Argentine ambassador to this organization says that Britain has sent to the area of the Falklands a big naval fleet, including atomic submarines, and has started a naval blockade of the archipelago despite the Security Council's appeal to the two countries to stop military actions. The Government of Britain, the letter says, has also taken a number of other steps which represent an economic aggression.

The Government of Argentina, the letter says, hopes for a diplomatic settlement of the conflict through negotiations and will make every effort towards this end.

PRAVDA CITES UK PAPER, POPE ON FALKLANDS DISPUTE

PM140951 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Apr 82 p 5

[TASS reports under general heading "Tension Grows"]

[Text] London, 11 Apr -- The British Defense Secretary has announced that the British naval armada is proceeding toward the Falkland archipelago, adhering to its "established course and schedule." Exercises approximating to a combat situation have been held on all the ships.

As the SUNDAY MIRROR newspaper reports, a British military delegation has arrived in Chile. It will discuss with the Pinochet regime terms for making the Chilean military base at Punto Arenas available to the British armed forces.

Rome, 11 Apr -- John Paul II, head of the Roman Catholic Church, has called on Britain and Argentina to avoid bloodshed and settle by peaceful means the conflict which has arisen.

FALKLANDS CRISIS FEARED GETTING 'OUT OF CONTROL'

LD132236 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2200 GMT 13 Apr 82

[PRAVDA review]

[Text] London: There are still considerable difficulties in the way of settling the crisis in the South Atlantic; the time allocated to us for this is rapidly running out.

These words spoken yesterday by U.S. Secretary of State Haig after his talks with Prime Minister Thatcher, which lasted 11 hours, quite accurately reflect the atmosphere of nervous tension which has arisen here after London's imposition of a naval blockade of the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands. The appearance of British atomic submarines in the so-called war zone established by the British military command around the Falkland Islands and the expected arrival in this region of the main forces of the British naval squadron are sharply raising the danger of armed clashes between the two countries.

Comprehension of this threat is beginning to have an increasingly noticeable influence on the moods of the British. Analyzing the situation which has now arisen around the Falklands (Malvinas) Islands, many British political observers come to the conclusion that the scale of military preparations undertaken by the Thatcher government in the past 10 days shows that she has placed at the basis of her policy a sort of tactic of arm-twisting, an imperialist striving to impose her will on this developing country. And this, no doubt, contains the serious danger that the present conflict might finally get out of control and seriously complicate the international situation as a whole.

U.S. ACTIVITY, MOTIVES IN FALKLANDS AREA VIEWED

'Military Bloc' Planned

LD132156 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1310 GMT 13 Apr 82

[Text] London, 13 Apr (TASS) -- Although the U.S. administration has declared more than once that it takes a "neutral position" in the Anglo-Argentine conflict, in fact A. Haig's mission shows that the White House's activity behind the scenes is aimed at ensuring whatever the turn of events, the maintenance and strengthening of the U.S. position in the South Atlantic.

In particular, this is confirmed by the plan proposed to Britain and Argentina by the U.S. Secretary of State of creating on the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands a "trilateral administration" with the participation of the United States. According to a REUTER dispatch from Buenos Aires, this proposal was resolutely rejected by N. Costa Mendez, the Argentine minister of foreign affairs, who declared the inadmissibility of any plan not based on recognition of Argentine sovereignty over the Malvinas.

It is noted in the press that the United States is planning to set up in the South Atlantic a military bloc similar to the North Atlantic pact. In the words of THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, according to Washington's design it should include, in particular, the Republic of South Africa, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. The details of this plan stresses the paper, remain secret. Among the aims being pursued by the U.S. administration there is also cited the future use of the Falkland Islands as a U.S. military base which would allow control over exit from the Atlantic into the Pacific Ocean.

It has become known here that during his visit to Buenos Aires before arriving in London A. Haig raised a proposal on the withdrawal of Argentine troops from the islands, the removal of the post of governor over them and nonuse of the Argentine flag on the Falklands. On returning to London, he reported that Argentina did not intend to withdraw from the islands or to refrain from keeping its flag on them and also did not agree to removing the post of governor.

U.S. Desires 'Foothold'

PY140940 Moscow in Spanish to Cuba 0100 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The conflict which broke out between Argentina and Great Britain over the Falklands (Malvinas) Islands is taking on more interesting aspects and tension.

The Thatcher government continues to maintain the position that before any negotiation with Argentina, Argentine forces must be removed from the islands. As is noted with good reason in some organs of the Western press, the British lords cannot yet erase from their memories the times when England thought of itself as sovereign of the seas and when gunboat diplomacy had currency.

By London's decision, a 200 mile war zone was declared beginning yesterday. Thus units of the British armada can attack any Argentine ship in that zone. English newspapers reported that at least two British nuclear submarines are now plying those waters.

Dispatches from Buenos Aires report that the Argentine Armed Forces have been placed on a state of alert in view of the fact that the British blockade has come into effect. The U.S. television company ABC also reports that the Argentine Navy has removed its ships from the area to avoid clashes.

U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig continues his shuttle between London and Buenos Aires. Disguising itself as an intermediary, Washington in fact -- and many observers agree on this -- is siding with the British Conservatives. A French television commentator noted that the British-Argentine crisis has repercussions beyond those between the two parties involved. He said the Malvinas Islands have strategic significance because they are located on important maritime routes, and this is why Washington is frightened by the fact that control of the islands should pass from Great Britain, which is a NATO country, to Argentina, which is a politically unstable country.

In reality, the secret political and military cooperation between London and Washington is on the march. English newspapers reported the British Armed Forces are making intense use of the U.S. base on Ascension Island in the South Atlantic under that arrangement. According to English newspapers, the deployment of Argentine troops is being followed by the American [word indistinct]. Pertinent information is then conveyed to the British Defense Ministry. Reports in the Brazilian press also attract notice; Washington is drawing up plans to build bases on the Malvinas Islands.

Buenos Aires refused outright the proposal of the U.S. Secretary of State whereby the United States would seek to participate directly in the administration of the Malvinas/Falkland Islands along with Great Britain and Argentina. Previously endorsed by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Haig's proposal consists of installing a tripartite administration in the islands, with U.S. participation. Argentine political observers note that Haig's proposal unmasks the real nature of the so-called mission [words indistinct] in Buenos Aires.

In fact, the United States wants to get a foothold on the islands in the South Atlantic. The proposal by Alexander Haig was rejected by Argentine Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez.

Satellites Aid British

LD140816 Moscow TASS in English 0745 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] New York, 14 Apr, TASS -- The Washington administration is stepping up its assistance to Britain in preparing military operations against Argentina. U.S. aid in preparing a British invasion of the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands is taking different forms, the TV company ABC reports, quoting sources in the Pentagon and the Department of State. First and foremost, the United States plays an important role in establishing communications links between Britain and its submarine fleet cruising in the area of the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands.

The United States has satellites through which communication between the British submarines and the naval armada moving towards the southern Atlantic is maintained. The United States has diverse intelligence on the activities of the Argentine Armed Forces and conveys this crucial information to the British, the ABC reports.

U.S. satellites supply the British armada with data on weather conditions and the movement of icebergs to the southern Atlantic.

The United States, which has a treaty with Britain on the joint use of the Ascension Island, a stronghold of the British Navy that is the closest to the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands, according to the ABC, is taking measures there to supply everything needed for the British Navy heading for the southern Atlantic. The United States has already brought to the island over two million gallons of fuel. All these measures, according to the ABC, are taken in compliance with the U.S. commitments to its closest ally, Britain, despite President Reagan's statements that the United States will remain neutral in the dispute between the two states, which he characterizes as America's good friends.

Haig Proposal

LD131756 Moscow TASS in English 1750 GMT 13 Apr 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Apr, TASS -- The Government of Argentina has categorically turned down the proposal of the U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig. He proposed that the United States should actively participate in governing the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands, jointly with Britain and Argentina.

As is reported by the newspaper CLARIN, Alexander Haig's proposal, which was approved beforehand by the British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, is that a "tripartite administration" of the islands, with the U.S. participation, should be formed.

Argentinian political news analysts point out that Alexander Haig's proposal fully discloses the real aim of the so-called "mission" with which the U.S. Secretary of State is coursing between London and Buenos Aires. Actually, the United States seeks invigoration of the American presence on the islands in the South Atlantic area.

Alexander Haig's proposal was turned down by the Foreign Minister of Argentina N. Costa Mendez.

SECRETARY OF STATE HAIG LEAVES ENGLAND

LD131825 Moscow TASS in English 1806 GMT 13 Apr 82

[Text] London, 13 Apr, TASS -- U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig left for Washington today after one-day talks with British officials. The Anglo-Argentine conflict over the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands was discussed during the talks. During a brief press conference at Heathrow Airport, Alexander Haig stated that he was returning to the United States for a report to President Ronald Reagan.

NEW STEP IN REAGAN'S 'TWO CHINAS POLICY'

LD141114 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] The Pentagon has officially announced that the United States intends to sell Taiwan spare parts for U.S.-made planes used to arm the Taiwan Air Force. Observers see this decision as a new step in the "two Chinas" policy pursued by the Reagan administration with Peking's tacit support.

DENG XIAOPING'S 'NEW REVOLUTION' MORE LIKE PURGE

LD131948 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1730 GMT 13 Apr 82

[Text] AFP reports from Beijing that the large-scale reorganization in Chinese Government departments is becoming more like a real purge, although this is denied by the official Chinese press. At the microphone is our commentator Boris Andriyanov:

The initiator of this latest campaign in China is believed to be Deng Xiaoping. It is he who has been persistently demanding over the past few months that a mass movement be set up to settle the problem of cadres, justifying this by a need to inject fresh blood into the veins of the party and state organs. The "strong (?man)" of China, as Deng Xiaoping is called in the West, dubbed this undertaking "the new revolution."

This campaign started about a month ago, and it now has become clearer and clearer that its organizers are guided not so much by thoughts of a "struggle against bureaucracy" as of a rejuvenation of cadres. [Words indistinct] serve as a kind of screen behind which they wish to hide the fact that the reorganization of the party-state apparatus in BEijing is on the whole a mass political purge. But the way this campaign is going is forcing the Beijing press to be more and more open with regard to whom the purge is directed against.

According to RENMIN RIBAO, three categories of people should be excluded from the leading bodies of various levels during the reorganization. Who are these categories? First, those who supported the gang of four and were consequently elevated to power during the so-called Cultural Revolution; second, those who during the political campaign undertaken by Mao Zedong in 1967 were charged with criminal activities; and, finally, all opponents of the rightwing (?opportunist) course that is being conducted in domestic and foreign policy by the Deng Xiaoping faction in the Beijing leadership.

Foreign journalists in Beijing are noting in this connection that the overwhelming majority of those who are being subjected to the purge are middle-aged people. They are the so-called products of the Cultural Revolution, and there are estimated to be about 20 million of them in China. Many key posts in ministries and departments are in the hands of this category of cadre workers, but they possess a particularly strong influence at provincial and lower levels.

By undertaking a new political campaign, Deng Xiaoping and his supporters are counting on suppressing opposition in the countryside, but their opponents have no desire to give in without a fight. Even the Beijing press has had to admit this, albeit in a restrained fashion, in commenting on the resistance to the reorganization of the party-state apparatus in the provinces. That is why the purge will inevitably lead to an exacerbation of the unfading struggle between various groupings in the ruling Beijing hierarchy. And this is fraught with an increase in tension in the country, which for many years has not known the kind of stability and tranquility the Chinese people dream so much about.

SERIES REVIEWS POSTWAR SOVIET AID TO CHINA

OW131433 Moscow in Mandarin to China 0700 GMT 13 Apr 82

[Musin commentary: "Under Soviet Support" -- 12th in the series: "Fragments in the History of Soviet-Chinese Relations"]

[Text] In August 1945 Soviet forces wiped out the 1 million-strong Japanese imperialist Guandong army and liberated northeast China. This was of great significance in the development of the Chinese people's struggle for national liberation. However, today's Maoist historians make no mention of this at all. They attempt to attribute the victory of the Chinese revolution to the efforts of the Chinese alone. The northeast revolutionary base area played a very important role in bringing the Chinese revolution to a victorious ending.

Northeast China is the country's economically most developed region. Liberated by Soviet forces, northeast China became the Chinese revolutionary forces' reliable strategic military base and the new political center of the Chinese revolution. The Soviet Union did everything possible to consolidate this base area for the Chinese revolution and to support the people's democratic political power in this region militarily, economically and in other ways.

Under Soviet support, training of the people's armed forces began. The people's armed forces were equipped with weapons captured by Soviet forces from the Guandong army, as well with Soviet weapons. This support made it possible for the Chinese people's revolutionary force in the northeast to be transformed into a mighty force. No wonder it was exactly this force trained in the northeast that became the vanguard in the Chinese people's struggle for liberation.

Economically and in training economic cadres, the Soviet Union energetically helped the people's democratic organs in the northeast. The Soviet people regarded helping the local organs of political power maintain the normal production of major industrial enterprises as of immediate concern to themselves. The Soviet Union guaranteed to meet the requirements of northeast China for fuels, motor vehicles, coal, medical supplies, salt, cotton cloth, boots and shoes, clothing, sugar and many other manufactured consumer goods. A trade agreement was signed according to which the Soviet Union supplied goods for civil use in a planned way and pledged to supply provisions for troops and equipment for civilian and military hospitals, schools and so forth.

The Soviet Union energetically helped the revolutionary forces in northeast China repair and extend railways and other transport means. This was of decisive significance for the people's armed forces in launching a general offensive against Chiang Kai-Shek's regime. The retreat of Japanese troops and the subsequent civil war caused serious destruction to all transport facilities. To restore the paralyzed railways to normal conditions and increase their transport capacities, Soviet railway workers completed a great deal of construction work within a very short time. By the spring of 1947, all main railway lines in areas under the people's democratic administration were repaired. All this made it possible for the people's liberation army to be redeployed and assembled on a large scale. It helped the PLA completely wipe out the Kuomintang forces and liberate all of northeast China, and provided conditions that ensured the victorious march into the south.

As far as the victory of the Chinese revolution is concerned, the Soviet troops stationed in China's northeast territory were of great significance. They also helped in strengthening the Chinese revolutionary forces. According to the Soviet-Chinese treaty signed on 14 August 1945, Soviet troops were stationed in the leased Lushun port and Dalian city. The Soviet troops stationed there provided cover for northeast China with the power of Soviet arms, and prevent Kuomintang and U.S. forces from launching an invasion by sea aimed at bypassing the frontline of the Chinese revolutionary forces and striking at the revolutionary forces from behind. Thus, northeast China became a strategic base. Relying on this base, the Chinese PLA was able to launch an offensive toward the south with the suddenness of a thunderbolt and liberate the entire country from the rule of the thoroughly rotten Kuomintang regime within a very short period. This led to the founding of the People's Republic of China.

JAPAN RADIOPRESS OFFICIAL ON MOSCOW BROADCASTS

OW140831 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 13 Apr 82

[Text] On 14 April Moscow radio marks the 40th anniversary of the beginning of its Japanese-language broadcast. In this connection, our Tokyo correspondent Vykhukhalev interviewed Jiro Inagawa, chairman of the board of directors of RADIOPRESS, a news agency. Chairman Inagawa said in the interview:

[Begin recording] RADIOPRESS has monitored Moscow radio for nearly 30 years, 24 hours each day, since 1953 to inform people in Japan about the Soviet Union. We firmly believe that we should contribute to the promotion of mutual understanding among nations through our work, which deals with international developments. It is our particular hope that Japan and the Soviet Union -- their governments and peoples alike -- strive to know each other better and promote friendly relations. It is for this reason that we have been monitoring Moscow radio -- both its Russian-and Japanese-language programs -- day and night.

We feel that Moscow radio has considerably improved its broadcasts to Japan. We see this as a fundamental sign that the Soviet Union attaches increasing importance to Japan in various respects. Broadcast times have been lengthened. As for the Japanese-language program, marked improvement is seen in the language, in terms of expression and translation. In this connection, we hope that in both the Russian- and Japanese-language programs further improvements will be made in the accuracy of reports, their speed of delivery and their volume.

Various problems still exist between Japan and the Soviet Union. Japan is eager to know more about the Soviet Union, and vice versa. We feel that this is the basic reason why it is important for the two countries to exchange news. Frankly speaking, there is a general feeling among the Japanese people that it is really hard to understand the Soviet Union. I suppose that the Soviet people feel the same way about Japan. Thus, we see it is not always easy to develop mutual understanding. In this context, it may be said that Moscow radio has a very important role to play in promoting Japanese understanding of the Soviet Union. The saying, "the sooner, the better," is also valid in reporting news. For example, General Secretary Brezhnev recently made an important speech in Tashkent. On the same day that he made the speech Moscow radio transmitted nearly the full text of the portion of his speech on international relations. We were very [words indistinct]. We monitored it and quickly spread it throughout Japan. [end recording]

IZVESTIYA COMMENTS ON U.S.-JAPANESE TIES

PM080959 [Editorial Report] Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian on 22 March, Morning Edition, publishes on page 3 a 2,500-word article by Yu. Bandura under the heading "United States-Japan: Crooked 'Axis' Across the Pacific Ocean." Bandura claims that the state of U.S.-Japanese economic relations, in particular the U.S. trade deficit with Japan, have prompted the United States to seek "revenge" by demanding that Japan increase its military spending. Noting that "it remains a fact, however, that Japanese ruling circles understand that the course toward 'global confrontation' with the USSR would most assuredly contradict Japan's interests," Bandura asserts that this view is not prevalent and that Japanese ruling circles have "a definite tendency to replace the entire range of Soviet-Japanese relations with the far-fetched "problem" of territorial claims.

He goes on to discuss Japan's aid to "pro-U.S." regimes in various parts of the world, noting that Japan is also giving the United States political support through the imposition of sanctions against the USSR and its "complicity in Washington's provocative actions against the peoples of Afghanistan and Poland." Bandura also claims that in making concessions to the United States by allowing for the possibility of the future deployment of nuclear weapons on its territory, Japan is "increasing the danger of the country's involvement in a nuclear catastrophe."

Finally Bandura discusses public concern over this danger and notes that "there are still reserves of sanity in Tokyo. The only question is whether people will be able to mobilize them in time and consequently safeguard their own national interests and genuine security."

PRAVDA CALLS FOR PEACE ZONE IN INDIAN OCEAN

PM131401 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Apr 82 p 6

[Article by political observer Vsevolod Ovchinnikov: "For Peaceful Oceans"]

[Text] Of the new peace initiatives put forward by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev at the 17th Congress of Soviet Trade Unions, a large international impact was made by the call for maximum restraint by both opposing blocs of states in their military activity. The Soviet side expressed, for example, its readiness to reach agreement on the mutual limitation of naval activities. In particular, it could be agreed that the sides' missile-carrying submarines be withdrawn from their present extensive combat patrol areas and that their movements be limited to predetermined areas.

"We," L.I. Brezhnev stated, "would also be prepared to discuss the question of extending confidence-building measures to the seas and oceans, particularly those areas wherein lie the busiest sealanes. In short, we want as large an area of the world's ocean as possible to become a zone of peace in the very near future."

The Soviet Union is totally against the militarization of the ocean expanses. Instead of assembling sea and air armadas there, it proposes safeguarding the peaceful life of the littoral states and the safety of sea routes on the basis of agreements which take into account the legitimate interests of all sides. The USSR has never regarded as ideal a situation where the fleets of the great powers spend a long time away from home on the other side of the world. It is prepared to solve this problem, but on conditions of equality and identical security of course. The USSR supported the initiative on declaring the Indian Ocean a peace zone in order to prevent the arms race from developing in a region of vital importance to world shipping. An announcement declaring the Indian Ocean a peace zone was adopted by the UN General Assembly back in 1971 on the suggestion of Sri Lanka and other littoral states.

The Soviet Union welcomed the idea of transforming the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace since it wants the relaxation of international tension to be extended to this extensive region where one-third of mankind lives. The Indian Ocean is not so far from Soviet territory when one considers the range of modern nuclear weapons delivery vehicles. The creation of a peace zone would not only strengthen the security of the littoral states, but would also prevent the emergence of a strategic threat to the USSR from the south. Moreover, the only route open the whole year round between the European part of the USSR and the Soviet far east runs through the Indian Ocean. There is simply no other nonlittoral state in the world for which the Indian Ocean performs such a role. Therefore, safe navigation on this route is of special significance for our country.

While sincerely wanting the Indian Ocean to be a zone of peace, the Soviet Union acknowledges the legitimate interests of the other countries, both littoral and nonlittoral, and in particular the desire of the West European states, Japan and the United States to have free use of this stretch of water for supplies of the raw materials they need -- above all, oil. Indeed, historical experience shows that military rivalry in zones containing sealanes increases the latter's vulnerability.

"Recently," the CPSU Central Committee report to the 25th party congress said, "there has been increasing opposition in a number of countries to the Indian Ocean's becoming an area for the creation of military bases by one power or another. We sympathize with this. As for the Soviet Union, we have never intended to build military bases in the Indian Ocean, and we call upon the United States to adopt the same position."

The Soviet Union displayed the same constructive approach by entering into bilateral talks with the United States in 1977-1978 on limiting and then reducing military activity in the Indian Ocean.

An agreement on this question would have been a very important practical prerequisite for the creation of a peace zone. However, after four rounds of talks the United States unilaterally decided to take no further part in them. During the 1979 Soviet-American summit meeting in Vienna it was decided to reach agreement on a resumption of the talks, but Washington has yet to carry out its promise.

This sabotage is no accident. The declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace contradicts the U.S. ruling circles' imperialist ambitions and their anti-Soviet strategy. Back at the beginning of the seventies -- that is, at the very time when the idea of a peace zone was gaining the support of the international community -- the Pentagon secretly financed the mass expulsion of the indigenous population from Diego Garcia Island. This coral atoll has become the U.S. military's main buttress in the militarization of the Indian Ocean.

The failure of U.S. intervention in Vietnam made the U.S. strategists take an even harder look at the Indian Ocean. Rapid military construction has been taking place on Diego Garcia since the mid-seventies. While the Soviet-American talks were taking place, the Pentagon was feverishly turning the island into a second Okinawa, into a multipurpose base for U.S. air and naval forces.

The overthrow of the shah's regime in Iran deprived U.S. imperialism of important positions in the oil-producing region of the Persian Gulf. Washington decided to shore them up from the west -- the Mediterranean -- and from the east -- the Indian Ocean. To that end the United States hurriedly set about creating strong points for the Rapid Deployment Force in Oman, Somalia and Kenya.

The buildup in U.S. strategic forces in the region is also based on Diego Garcia. A deepwater berth for nuclear aircraft carriers has been created in the lagoon (the presence of two U.S. aircraft carrier strike forces in the Indian Ocean has become virtually permanent). The runway at the airbase has been extended to the extent that B-52 strategic bombers can use it.

U.S. strategic aircraft are becoming familiar with Australian airfields at Darwan and Learmonth, while missile-carrying submarines are familiarizing themselves with the Australian port of Cockburn Sound on the Indian Ocean coast, which has been made available as a permanent base for them. The present U.S. administration's open rapprochement with the racist South African regime gives the American military still more favorable opportunities to use the South African Simonstown naval base.

It is becoming increasingly obvious that Washington seeks to turn the Indian Ocean not into a zone of peace, but into a zone of its own military-political domination, and that it intends to concentrate the RDF there in order to bring military pressure to bear on the littoral states and also to concentrate there its strategic forces targeted on the USSR from the south.

The American policy of militarization of the Indian Ocean has given new impetus to the struggle to turn it into a peace zone. In 1979 a conference of Indian Ocean states was held at the United Nations. The conference elaborated the principles of an agreement on the implementation of the 1971 declaration. It was laid down in particular that nonlittoral states must stop building up their military presence in the Indian Ocean, eliminate their military bases there and not deploy or test nuclear weapons there. At the same time the inalienable right of all countries freely to use the sea areas of the Indian Ocean for navigation and other peaceful purposes was reaffirmed.

The 34th UN General Assembly session, taking note of the work done by the conference participants, resolved to convene an international conference on the Indian Ocean in Colombo in 1981. Preparations for the conference were undertaken by the UN special committee on the Indian Ocean consisting of representatives of 46 states (including the permanent members of the Security Council).

At its June 1981 session the American delegation tried to nullify the 1971 declaration and all the work done on its basis by UN members in the subsequent decade. It put forward the absurd thesis that the threat to the security of Indian Ocean countries comes not from the American military presence in that part of the world, which is geographically remote from the United States, but from...Soviet Armed Forces on their own territory -- in the Transcaucasus, central Asia and west Siberia. The authors of this provocation did not succeed in channeling the special committee's work toward anti-Sovietism. The nonaligned countries did not support the provocation and the socialist states rebuffed it. But the convocation of an international conference on the Indian Ocean in 1981 was thwarted.

The 36th UN General Assembly session again reaffirmed the need to convene a conference and set a new deadline -- no later than the first half of 1983. Nonetheless, as the recent (March) session of the special committee showed, the United States and its allies are making the greatest possible efforts to prevent an international conference on the Indian Ocean from being held at all.

The United States tries to involve its allies in the policy of militarization of the ocean areas too. This is the aim of American representatives in NATO, who have decided directly or indirectly to use the machinery of the North Atlantic bloc for that purpose. Washington uses other levers too. In 1978 the operational zone of the ANZUS bloc, which includes the United States, Australia and New Zealand, was extended to the Indian Ocean.

The annual joint maneuvers by naval forces from the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Japan under the code name Rimpac (Pacific ring) indicate Washington's desire to link together in a single chain NATO, ANZUS and the American-Japanese "security treaty." They are also trying to involve the ASEAN members -- Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore -- in a "Pacific community" set up on this basis.

The buildup in the U.S. military presence and the stepping up of military activity in the Indian and Pacific Oceans, and Washington's attempts to make its bloc allies accomplices or participants in that process constitute a serious threat to the security of the littoral states and to the whole world. That is why L.I. Brezhnev's reply to a letter from Australian champions of detente and disarmament met with such a broad response from the international public. The reply once again reaffirms the USSR's readiness at any time to continue talks with the United States on limiting military activity in the Indian Ocean region, and also indicates that the Soviet side sees no obstacle to extending similar measures to the Pacific.

The Soviet Union is actively and consistently fighting against the militarization of the ocean spaces. It advocates that the creation of a peace zone should lead to the lessening of military confrontation in various regions of the world ocean.

Kitsenko Commentary

PM131519 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Mar 82 p 5

[Oleg Kitsenko "Commentator's Column": "Foiling Dangerous Plans"]

[Text] The massive deliveries of modern armaments to African countries on the Indian Ocean, and also to South Asia pose a serious threat to peace in the region. This was stated recently by P.V. Narasimha Rao, Indian external affairs minister, in a speech to members of the Association of Indian Diplomats. And though the minister did not name specific arms suppliers, his speech leaves no doubt, the UNI agency notes, that the aggressive U.S. policy causes special concern to the Indian Government. The point is, the agency explains, that the United States is pursuing a course of expanding its military presence in the Indian Ocean.

There are serious grounds for these misgivings, which are also being expressed by other littoral countries. The Pentagon is speedily modernizing the military bases which are already at its disposal and is seeking access to new ones.

The military base on the island of Diego Garcia is being hastily converted into an outpost for the Rapid Deployment Force and a site for the deployment of nuclear bombers. The base in the Kenyan port of Mombasa is being modernized. Plans have been elaborated to create a base for nuclear forces in Moroni in the Comoro Islands. U.S. ships already use the Somali base at Berbera. The network of U.S. military strongpoints stretches from the shores of Australia to East Africa and Southwest Asia, where major U.S. naval forces have been concentrated.

Certain other countries of the region are also being saturated with U.S. weapons at an accelerated pace. It is becoming increasingly obvious that Washington is carrying out farreaching strategic designs aimed at establishing its control over the Indian Ocean, which has, incidentally, already been declared a "sphere of vital interests" of the United States. It is for precisely this reason that it does not wish to allow the demilitarization of the region and is frustrating the holding of a conference on the Indian Ocean, concealing its actions with unsubstantiated claims of a "Soviet threat" to oil communications.

In actual fact, as is known, the USSR is pursuing a policy of peace and of the firm rebuff of warmongers in Asia, as it is in all other continents too. It is, in particular, in favor of liquidating military bases in the Indian Ocean and of turning it into a peace zone. The Soviet proposals, advanced in December 1980, on normalizing the situation in the Persian Gulf region were devoted to achieving this aim. The new proposal by the Soviet Union serves the same end too -- the proposal to discuss the question of extending confidence-building measures to the seas and oceans, especially those regions where the busiest sea routes lie.

It is up to the United States and its allies. The countries on the shores of the Indian Ocean need lasting peace.

UN FINDS NO EVIDENCE OF SOVIET CW IN AFGHANISTAN

PM131157 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Apr 82 Morning Edition p 4

[Report by A. Akhmedzyanov under the rubric "Misinformers Caught Red-Handed": "The Forgery That Did Not Pay Off"]

[Text] U.S. propaganda is pulling out all stops to prove the unprovable -- namely, the use of "Soviet-made chemical weapons" in Afghanistan. But a lie is a lie. You cannot find what does not exist. The same conclusion was reached by a UN group of medical experts which visited Pakistan in February to carry out an on-the-spot investigation of reports of chemical weapons being used in Afghanistan.

The UN experts returned, but their group's report did not see the light of day. According to informed circles in London, the report was shelved since the medical experts' conclusions do not corroborate U.S. allegations of "chemical warfare" in Afghanistan.

The UN experts went to Pakistani hospitals treating sick Afghan refugees and questioned many "patients" whom they were told were victims of chemical weapons. Their conclusion was that these people showed "no signs of physical or psychological damage that might have been caused by the chemical weapons."

The unpublished report, parts of which found their way into India's NATIONAL HERALD, notes that the people who claim to have been posoned by gas are in fact suffering from various allergies which have nothing to do with chemical weapons. It is a medical fabrication.

It is worth pointing out that the Americans, as members of the UN commission have admitted, put pressure on them to secure a conclusion confirming the U.S. propaganda story. But the commission would not be intimidated.

SFRY DEFENSE SECRETARY LJUBICIC TO VISIT

LD141028 Moscow TASS in English 1014 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] Moscow, 14 Apr, TASS -- General of the Army Nikola Ljubicic, member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia and federal secretary for national defence of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, will pay an official visit to the Soviet Union in the second half of April 1982 on the invitation of the Soviet Government.

GDR TO PARTICIPATE IN GAS PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION

LD082228 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 1900 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] Under an agreement signed here in Moscow, the German Democratic Republic will be involved in the construction of a major gas carrier pipeline between Siberia and Western Europe and other gas projects. The republic will be involved in the construction of a 500-kilometer section of the pipeline and compressor stations along it. In return, it will be getting Soviet natural gas. Equipment for the project will also delivered from France, West Germany, Italy and Britain. Starting from 1984, the Soviet Union will export to Western Europe an annual 40 billion cubic meters of gas.

SHEVARDNADZE RECEIVES SOVIET-HUNGARIAN GROUP

WA101245 Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 28 Jan 82 p 1

[Text] On 27 January, Comrade E.A. Shevardnadze, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee, received the participants in the 28th session of the Intergovernmental Soviet-Hungarian Commission for Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation. The Soviet side was headed by N.V. Talyzin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and the Hungarian side by Jozsef Marjai, deputy chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers. The reception was also attended by Matyas Szuros, Hungarian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in the USSR.

The reception was held in a warm, friendly atmosphere.

Z.A. Pataridze, chairman of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers; Z.A. Chkheidze, secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee, and O.Ye. Cherkeziya, deputy chairman of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers, participated in the conservation.

MEMBERS CRITICIZE ITALIAN CP LEADERSHIP

PM141013 Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 14 2 Apr 82 pp 21-22

[Unattributed roundup under the rubric "From NOVOYE VREMYA's Mailbag": "Italians on the Positions of the Italian Communist Party Leadership"]

[Text] Our magazine's editorial offices have recently been receiving a particularly large number of letters from Italian readers. The letters attest to their authors' critical attitude toward statements by the Italian Communist Party [PCI] leadership on the policies of the CPSU and the Soviet state and on the experience of building socialism in the USSR and other socialist community countries.

"I am a member of the PCI," Dario Marini writes from Padua, "in whose ranks I perform active work. I must say in all frankness that I have felt affronted by the official stand taken by the party's leading organs. I mean the views concerning the USSR and other socialist countries voiced in a number of documents, such as the report delivered by Romano Ledda at the joint plenum of the PCI Central Committee and Central Auditing Committee in October 1981, the Secretariat resolution of 30 December 1981 and Enrico Berlinguer's report at the Central Committee plenum on 11 January 1982. I personally am convinced that the grave crisis in the PZPR in no way belittles the significance of the successes achieved by the socialist countries in freeing millions upon millions of people from poverty and ignorance. Many of my comrades in the party share this opinion."

Here is what Dario Pagani of Piacenza reports in his letter: "It strikes me, as a party member, as more than essential to join in the debate which began with the publication of the PCI leadership's resolution in connection with the events in Poland. This is my duty. It all began with the events in Poland and has gone as far as the specific stands taken by the PCI leadership with regard to the concepts of 'socialism,' 'state' and 'international relations.' It strikes me as decidedly inappropriate from the viewpoint of terminology and wrong from the viewpoint of ideology to maintain, as the leadership's resolution does, that the concept of socialism must be linked with the concept of democracy, meaning bourgeois democracy. This concept of democracy is incompatible with the Marxist concept of the state. I am convinced that a broad debate on these issues is needed in the party so as to avoid a split between rank-and-file PCI members and the leadership, with an illusion of false unanimity," Comrade Pagani concludes.

"I disagree with the PCI leadership's stand on the Polish events. I am surprised at its overt support for Solidarity, which campaigned for the overthrow of the socialist system and the establishment of a regime on the Western pattern," Marco del Pascua writes from Montevarchi. "The PCI leaders ought to know from the Italian example what negative phenomena arise out of a social system which will never defend the interests of the working class, as socialism does. I do not share the views of Berlinguer, who believes that the motive force of the October Revolution has run out. The socialist countries advancing along the path of economic and social progress have managed to resolve such problems as unemployment, inflation and terrorism, while the capitalist countries are experiencing a profound crisis. The motive force of the revolution has in no way exhausted itself. It would be a good thing if the PCI leadership reflected carefully once again on the events in Poland and did not give grounds for intensifying the anticommunist campaign being mounted by the bourgeois Italian mass media."

In his letter to the editors Alberti Rinaldi of Modena voices agreement with E. Fryazin's article "Communists in the Struggle for Peace" published in NOVOYE VREMYA No 47 for 1981. The article was devoted to a speech by R. Ledda, director of the PCI Center for the Study of International Politics. A. Rinaldi believes that it is tantamount to distorting reality to "divide equally" between the two "superpowers" the responsibility for exacerbating the situation in the world, as R. Ledda does.

Italo Cocci of Ascoli Piceno reports that he shares the opinion of the author of the article "Communists in the Struggle for Peace" concerning Ledda's report, which, so I Cocci believes, gives an incorrect definition of classes and a far from Marxist-Leninist interpretation of the world's problems.

"Your mind and heart are indignant," a group of communists writes us from Modena, "when you see how our party's leadership sets goals far removed from the PCI's historical traditions. It is not hard to guess where such principles will lead us. Under conditions when Italy is being turned into a launchpad for American missiles and worship of the 'wild west' is being propagated, the stand taken by the PCI leaders becomes particularly harmful. But let them not hope that they will succeed in making us, too, renounce friendly ties with the Soviet people and the respect and admiration which we feel for their leaders, who are persistently and consistently pursuing a policy of peace in the spirit of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism."

"I absolutely cannot agree with such harmful criticism of the country where the great and valiant October Revolution happened," Fiorentino Peaquin writes from Aosta.

A letter by Celestino Manni from Modena states: "Having spent 35 years on the firing line and having grown old in the struggle, I cannot reconcile myself to the way in which politicians in the PCI leadership equate the CPSU and the USSR with the imperialist bandits headed by Reagan. This is an unforgiveable mistake. The United States has long been pursuing an adventurist, aggressive policy toward those who are weaker. Piccoli, Pietro Longo, Craxi and now Berlinguer, too, evidently do not notice this or pretend not to notice it. We will not let ourselves be deceived; our position is unshakable. The masses are on the right road, and it is the leadership that should reconsider its positions."

"I approve of the article 'Contrary to the Interests of Peace and Socialism' published in PRAVDA 24 Janaury," Mario Alborghetti writes from Bergamo, "for I have long adhered to the viewpoint expressed in it. I condemn the PCI leaders' dissociation from communist ideology founded on Marxist-Leninist teaching. This dissociation does great harm to the working class and the revolutionary movement. Long live the CPSU! Long live Italian and Soviet communists!"

PRAVDA REPORTS ON GREEK COMMUNIST PARTY PLENUM

PM140835 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Apr 82 p 4

[TASS and PRAVDA correspondents' dispatch: "Greek Communists' Positions"]

[Text] Athens, 7 Apr -- The newspaper RIZOPASTIS has published the resolution of the recent Communist Party of Greece [KKE] Central Committee plenum which examined the party's current tasks in connection with the situation prevailing in the country and the international arena.

Stressing that as a result of the activity of imperialist circles peace throughout the world is now in greater danger than ever before in the postwar period. The plenum noted the decisive part in the struggle to ease international tension and for arms reduction played by the socialist countries, and above all, the Soviet Union. The recent Soviet proposals concerning medium-range nuclear weapons, the document states, are a new contribution to the defense of peace.

The plenum pointed to the need to defend resolutely the ideas of socialism in connection with the campaign mounted by reaction against the socialist countries. The document notes that some communist parties, such as the Italian and Spanish Communist Parties, by their stand on Poland and their nihilist criticism and attacks on the socialist countries and also by their "third way" theory, are harming the cause of peace and socialism.

The plenum examined questions of the Greek Government's domestic and foreign policy. The plenum pointed out that, alongside certain measures of a positive nature, inconsistency can be observed in the actions of the country's government.

The plenum pointed out that the main condition for success in the struggle to carry out democratic transformations is the enhancement of the KKE's role and influence in the country. Democratic changes cannot be effected by the efforts of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement alone. They can be achieved only with the cooperation and cohesion of all Greece's democratic forces.

BREZHNEV EXCHANGES GREETINGS WITH GREEK PRESIDENT

LD081340 Moscow TASS in English 1330 GMT 8 Apr 82

[Text] Moscow, 8 Apr, TASS -- Leonid Brezhnev has sent a telegramme to President Konstandinos Karamanlis of the Greek Republic to convey his best wishes to the president as well as wishes of prosperity and progress to the friendly Greek people, on the occasion of the country's national holiday -- Independence Day.

In a reply message, the president of Greece expressed his cordial gratitude for the greetings and, on his own part, conveyed his best wishes to Leonid Brezhnev and wishes of peace and progress to the peoples of the Soviet Union.

Both messages express the hope that the two countries' relations, which have a long-standing tradition, will be developing in the future as well for the benefit of their peoples and in the interests of stronger peace and international security.

U.S. PRESSURE ON FRG FOR INCREASED ARMAMENTS

LD131830 Moscow TASS in English 1801 GMT 13 Apr 82

[Text] Moscow, 13 Apr, TASS -- "Not worrying about decency, the White House is exerting pressure on the FRG," LITERATURNAYA GAZETA writes in its issue of April 14 in connection with the visit of President Reagan to the FRG planned for June. The article in LITERATURNAYA GAZETA says that Washington is particularly annoyed by the attitude of the Western Germans (the West German people, not the government) to the United States' demand for additional nuclear arming with U.S. missiles of the new type. The United States vented its anger on the present government.

"Now that Reagan's visit to the FRG is drawing nearer, it is pondered in the FRG on the way of balancing the relations between the USA and the USSR so as to preserve the FRG's own interests. What the United States demands from the FRG is not the balancing but complete submission envisaging the utter rupture of all relations of the FRG with the Soviet Union and increase of the military budget. But West Germany as it is contributes to NATO more than all other allies. Nevertheless, the United States obliges it to spend additional sums so as to create various military structures, air fields, bases, etc.,before 1985.

It is demanded that the FRG should allocate for these purposes double the sum that was envisaged by the previous NATO programme, the article says. But West Germany has economic difficulties. It has two million unemployed people and the spending on armaments heavily taxes the budget. The newspaper writes it is not accidental that it is asked in West German ever more often if the Americans do not wish to edge on the FRG to still greater military spending so that it should be unable to compete with the USA on world markets. Washington, apparently, disregards the doubts and concerns of Western Germans.

U.S. Undersecretary of State Eagleburger hastened to Bonn and started ostantatious talks with leaders of the CDU-CSU opposition on relations between the FRG and the USA. "The ruling coalition in Bonn is being constantly reminded that if the United States wishes so it might replace the Bonn rulers with more pliant officials."

PRAVDA CITES KOIVISTO ON USSR-FINNISH TIES

PM131339 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Apr 82 p 4

[TASS report: "On a Firm Basis"]

[Text] Helsinki, 1 Apr -- Since World War II Soviet-Finnish relations have developed in an exceptionally fruitful manner. They accord with the fundamental interests and aspirations of the two countries' peoples and help the consolidation of security in northern Europe and throughout the continent, Finnish president Mauno Koivisto stated in reply to questions put by the magazine MAALIMA JA ME.

Good-neighborliness and mutual trust between the Soviet Union and Finland, the president noted, are based on the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Aid signed in 1948 and on its active implementation. The treaty has retained its topicality in all its clauses, which is confirmed by the fact that it has already been extended twice without alteration to its content.

Under the conditions of the recently intensified international tension, he continued, the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Aid acquires particularly important significance as a fundamental document of Soviet-Finnish cooperation and as a factor exerting a tangible influence on the policy of security in northern Europe.

We Finns, M. Koivisto stressed, assess exceptionally highly the fact that we have been able to build good, trusting relations of cooperation with our great neighbor. During my recent visit to the Soviet Union, the president said, I was able to see for myself that the Soviet Union regards Finland as a good and reliable neighbor.

Economic ties form a substantial part of mutual relations between Finland and the Soviet Union, M. Koivisto continued.

Trade with the Soviet Union is of exceptionally positive significance for Finland's national economy. Over the past 2 years the increase in Finnish exports to the Soviet Union has considerably improved the opportunities for our country's economic development and protected many sectors of production from the crisis which has meanwhile gripped the Western markets, the president said. The constant, uninterrupted development of economic cooperation between our countries in all sectors accords with the most vital interests of both Finland and the Soviet Union.

PRAVDA SEES IMPENDING ISRAELI ATTACK ON LEBANON

PM131501 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Apr 82 p 5

[Yuriy Glukhov article: "Aggression Is Being Prepared"]

[Text] At a time when the attention of the world public is absorbed to a considerable degree by the development of the Anglo-Argentine conflict, new alarm signals are coming in from the Near East, too. News agencies report the probability of an Israeli invasion of Lebanon in the near future. U.S. television companies allege that the Israeli Army will undertake a massive offensive in the direction of Beirut. Amplifying these data, the New York TIMES writes about the transfer of reserve subunits, including armored subunits to the Lebanese border, about Tel Aviv's drafting of reservists from naval subunits and the cancelling of leave in the army.

Similar reports on the growing threat of intervention are being received from southern Lebanon. It is noted that at least two Israeli divisions are concentrated along the entire Lebanese-Israeli border. Intensive reconnaissance flights by Israel's aircraft have been resumed over the south of the country and the Lebanese capital. Israeli warships have once again blockaded the whole coast of southern Lebanon. The Lebanese Government is voicing serious concern and alarm. Through its permanent UN representative, it has sent notification to the chairman of the Security Council declaring that Lebanon reserves the right to demand an urgent convocation of the council.

Y. 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, also warns of the dangerous situation which is taking shape. At a meeting with leaders of the Lebanese national patriotic forces, he provided information about Israel's readiness to carry out "lightning aggression" against Lebanon.

By all accounts, Israel's ruling circles are not adverse to resorting to a well-tried subterfuge: By exploiting the complicated international situation under cover of the Anglo-Argentine conflict, they would like to continue to carry out their expansionist plans. Special calculations under current conditions are pinned on the fact that the biggest Arab state -- Egypt -- is paralyzed by the Camp David agreements and on the promised definitive departure of Israel from the Sinai Peninsula. In addition, the Israeli rear is protected by Tel Aviv's very powerful ally and patron -- the United States. The "multinational forces" -- a shock detachment of the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force, is already deployed in the Sinai. In this connection the Tel Aviv "hawks" obviously think their hands are now free for new adventures.

It is no good being deluded into thinking that this playing with fire in the Near East can go unnoticed. The peace-loving public is vigilantly following the development of events in this region, warning the aggressor and its transatlantic accomplices of their responsibility for the dangerous consequences of aggressive actions.

FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER PLOTS AGAINST IRAN

GF131359 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1630 GMT 12 Apr 82

[Text] Dear listeners, a new plot to topple the present regime has been discovered in Iran. Igor Sheftunov, Radio Moscow correspondent writes:

The statement issued by the Islamic Military Tribunal says that Qotbzadeh, former Iranian foreign minister was the head of the plotters. However, the U.S. news agency UPI, to safeguard the leader of the plotters, claims that after he was dismissed of his leadership position Qotbzadeh was an ordinary merchant. But let us see what kind of businessman Qotbzadeh was. Qotbzadeh's business was to sell his country and the independence of his country and nation, and he was busy doing this type of business.

According to the Cypriot paper YENI DUZEN, when Qotbzadeh was in the United States 30 years ago he had close contacts with the CIA -- the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, and in return for some dollars he provided information on anti-shah groups to the U.S. espionage bureaus.

He later on went to Europe and established similar contacts with intelligence services. In the West they consider Qotbzadeh to be one of their very important spys. Qotbzadeh entered the revolutionary movement, called himself anti-shah and managed to become the leader of The Voice and Vision of Iran. Later on he even became foreign minister.

When Qotbzadeh held these positions, he did his best to prevent the unity of internal revolutionary forces and he was an obstacle in the further expansion of relations between the newly established republic and progressive countries, nonaligned countries and socialist countries. Furthermore, Qotbzadeh was still doing favors for his imperialist masters. When the U.S. Embassy in Tehran was exposed as a spy nest, Qotbzadeh wrote a letter to the Islamic Majlis defending the activities of U.S. spys and agents, and he prevented the spys from being handed over to the courts. The imperialists were generously paying him in for his services. Two years ago, Amir 'Ala'i, the Iranian ambassador in Paris, revealed that Qotbzadeh had received a check for $1 million from the U.S. espionage services. Although Qotbzadeh tried to quickly wiggle out of this, he could not stop the scandal. The Tehran paper XTBOB-E AZADEGAN published a photocopy of the check. Later on Qotbzadeh's secret meetings with Bakhtiar -- the shah's last prime minister -- and Jordan, President Carter's closest adviser, was revealed.

Qotbzadeh was exposed as a U.S. spy, was dismissed of all his responsibilities and was arrested. Then Qotbzadeh managed to get himself out of jail very quickly, and with the help of the representatives of monarchial and nationalist minigroups and other anti-government minigroups started preparing a big plot against the Islamic Republic of Iran. As mentioned in the statement of the Islamic Military Tribunal, the plotters wanted to kill Ayatollah Khomeyni and members of the Supreme Council of the Iranian Revolution.

Tehran radio reported that Qotbzadeh and his group wanted to lay the groundwork for the return of their Western masters to Iran.

From the first days of the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran, imperialists have not stopped for even one minute their subversive activities against the newly established republic. The discovery of Qotbzadeh's and his gang's plot is further confirmation of this.

MEETING MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF USSR-IRAQI TREATY

LD132118 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 9 Apr 82

[Text] Soviet public circles have celebrated the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Friendship and Cooperation Treaty between the Soviet Union and the Iraqi Republic. A festive meeting was held on this occasion in Moscow at the House of Friendship with the Peoples of Foreign Countries.

Here is a report on this meeting:

The hall of the house of friendship is crowded with people. One can see here people of various professions: doctors, teachers, oil engineers and construction workers. They have all worked in Iraq. The spirit of internationalism and the desire to help the nascent Iraqi Republic prompted them to go there to help in the establishment and development of the national economy. Scores of Soviet experts are still working at various Iraqi industrial establishments, in hospitals and schools and at industrial vocational schools where they provide the necessary advice to their Iraqi colleagues on sophisticated technical matters of modern production. They treat the sick and train the national cadres.

On their behalf and on behalf of all the Soviet people, Soviet Education Minister Mikhail Prokofyev addressed the representatives of the Iraqi Embassy in the Soviet Union present in the hall of the house of friendship, led by Ambassador Fadil al-'Izzawi. He said:

Our country, which adheres to Leninist principles, as the resolutions of the 26th CPSU Congress affirmed, is eager to consolidate comprehensive peace and international detente and firmly supports the peoples' struggle against imperialism and neocolonialism and for free and independent development. Mikhail Prokofyev went on to say that all Soviet citizens express their satisfaction with this policy, which is aimed at developing equal and mutually advantageous cooperation and friendly relations with other countries. One of the results of this policy was the signing of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the Soviet Union and Iraq 10 years ago. This policy expresses the desire of the peoples of the two countries to strengthen their friendship and cooperation. It has become a new phase in the history of Soviet-Iraqi relations. Our two countries signed this treaty out of their belief in the principles of struggle against imperialism, colonialism, Zionism and reaction, and for the peoples' political, economic and social progress. This important document, whose aim is to regulate all relations between our two countries, expresses the conviction that the strengthening and development of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Iraq is consistent with the national interests of the two countries and that the past 10 years have proved this in practice.

Iraq's ambassador to the Soviet Union, Fadil al-'Azzawi, spoke next:

[Begin recording] It gives me pleasure to convey, in my name and in the name of the members of the Iraqi Embassy and the Iraqi community in the Soviet Union, the warmest congratulations to both the Iraqi and Soviet people on this occasion which is dear to us all -- the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Iraq and the Soviet Union, which was signed in Baghdad on 9 April 1972 when our country celebrated the silver jubilee of the birth of our leading party, the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party. The signing of this treaty between our two countries, in accordance with mutual equality, mutual respect and mutual benefit, had great significance in confronting world imperialism backed by the oil monopolist companies which plundered our wealth for many years. The signing of the treaty was not a tactical step or due to a policy that was adopted (?hurriedly), but was the result of the strategic outlook reaffirmed by the pan-Arab congresses of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party which called for maintaining and developing the relations of friendship and cooperation with the socialist community countries led by the Soviet Union, which is the faithful friend of the Arab people. [applause] [end recording]

The official festive meeting held by the Soviet public circles on the 10th anniversary of the Soviet-Iraqi treaty has ended, but the further development of friendship and cooperation between our two peoples is continuing. The cable sent on this important occasion by the two Soviet leaders, Leonid Brezhnev and Nikolay Tikhonov, to the president of the Iraqi Republic, Saddam Husayn, expresses firm confidence -- confidence firmly established by the treaty -- that relations between our two countries will further develop in the future in the interests of our two peoples and for comprehensive peace and international security.

SOVIET-ARGENTINE TRADE TALKS END, PROTOCOL SIGNED

PM131615 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Apr 82 p 4

[TASS report: "Commission Session"]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Apr -- The sixth session of the Soviet-Argentine joint commission on trade-economic and scientific-technical cooperation held in Buenos Aires from 31 March through 8 April has ended. A protocol was signed on the results of the talks. The document points out that the commission analyzed the successful development of economic and trade relations and scientific-technical cooperation between the two countries, noting their friendly and mutually advantageous nature.

ARGENTINA HANDS OVER COMMUNIST TO PARAGUAY

PM131609 [Editorial Report] Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 10 April publishes on page 5 under the heading "Freedom for the Prisoners of Imperialism and Reaction" a 900-word article by Ananias Maydana, member of the Paraguayan Communist Party Central Committee Political Commission, discussing a claim by the National Committee for Human Rights in Paraguay that his brother, Antonio Maydana, first secretary of the Paraguayan Communist Party Central Committee, "kidnapped in the Argentine capital of Buenos Aires on 27 August 1980, is now a prisoner in the 'Esperanza' military fort in the Chaco region of Paraguay near the border with Bolivia."

Stating that his brother and another "comrade in the struggle," Emilio Roa, were "handed over by the Argentine military authorities into the clutches of Gen Alfredo Stroessner" and that shortly after the kidnapping Paraguayan National Defense Minister Samaniego paid a visit to Buenos Aires, Maydana reports briefly on what has happened to the prisoners since then and concludes: "The world knows that thanks to the broad campaign of protest within the country and the powerful movement of international solidarity Antonio Maydana has already been wrested from the Stroessner tyranny's torture chambers where he spent almost 20 years -- from 1958 through 1977. The solidarity of the Paraguayan working people, the Paraguayan democrats and the other peoples of the world with our struggle can undoubetedly once more save the life of A. Maydana and his comrade.

"We are certain that the campaign of international solidarity launched by the socialist countries and primarily the Soviet Union will play a decisive part in the liberation of A. Maydana, E. Roa, and our country's other political prisoners and the prisoners of imperialism and reaction in Chile, Uruguay and El Salvador."

REAGAN'S CARIBBEAN INITIATIVE EXAMINED

LD131638 Moscow World Service in English 1300 GMT 13 Apr 82

[Text] Now an analysis of the so-called Caribbean initiative of President Ronald Reagan by our commentator Vladimir Korotkov. This is what he writes:

The initiative may seem quite all right at first glance. The rich United States is giving the poor east Caribbean countries $350 million. Now let's go deep into the issue. The region is a sphere of special interest by American big business. United States monopolies received in 1978, 1979 and 1980 $2.24 on each invested dollar in net profit. As a result of domination by American companies for many years, the small Caribbean countries have accumulated (?large) debts to their powerful northern neighbor. The total debt of these countries to be affected by the new initiative exceeds $15 billion. In 1979 the interest rate on the loans to these countries was worth $867 million -- that is, 2 and 1/2 times more than the countries are to get under the Caribbean initiative. This is simple arithmetic. It shows that the United States is only paying back to the Caribbean countries a small part of what it has plundered there, exploiting the people and the natural resources of the region's nations. And of course such selfless gifts cannot solve, as it were, the problems of the Caribbean countries.

But who is to get the gifts? Only those regimes will get them which toe the American line. A lion's share goes to the Salvadoran junta: $128 million. The dictators of Haiti and Honduras are to get $40 million and so on down the list. The essence of President Reagan's Carribean initiative has been well explained by the United States ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago, Mr Evans. He said bluntly the United States was not going to fool anyone, making people believe that the Caribbean initiative was the fruit of pure generosity. One major reason for the appearance of this initiative is the United States' strategic interests.

Commenting on the results of the recent tour by President Reagan to promote his initiative in the Caribbean countries, the American television company NBC stressed the President had urged his junior partners to prevent a spread of communism in the Caribbean Basin and in Central America. And he told them how to use the American aid against Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada. Notably, Mexico, Canada and Venezuela refused at once to take part in this dirty deal with the United States, which the deal certainly is. As for President Reagan's promotion tour, it was a total failure. The east Caribbean countries declined to support Washington's policy. The Barbadian prime minister, John Adams, for one, declared that the Soviet Union, Cuba and Grenada had never posed a military threat to these countries. He criticized Washington's attempts to impose its views and policy on other countries. A Jamaican political leader, Michael Manley, said the purpose of the initiative was to create in the region new bloody dictatorial regimes similar to the one in El Salvador.

GUATEMALAN REBELS GET ARMS; CHURCH HITS U.S. ROLE

LD131302 Moscow TASS in English 1145 GMT 13 Apr 82

[Text] San Jose, 13 Apr, TASS -- In the course of their armed offensive against the hateful pro-American regime, Guatemalan insurgent forces attacked two police stations in Santa Rosa and El Quiche departments. In the course of that bold operation they captured large quantities of arms.

The leadership of Guatemala's Catholic Church issued a statement exposing the crimes of the junta, which can keep in power due to official Washington's all-round support. The recent military coup in our country, the statement says, was prepared and accomplished with the assistance of American secret services.

TIKHONOV EXCHANGES GREETINGS WITH GRENADA LEADER

LD091920 Moscow TASS in English 1830 GMT 9 Apr 82

[Text] Moscow, 9 Apr, TASS -- Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Nikolay Tikhonov sent a message to Prime Minister of Grenada Maurice Bishop expressing cordial congratulations and wishes of success and well-being to the prime minister, to the people's revolutionary government and the friendly people of Grenada on the occasion of the national day, the revolution day. The Soviet people, the message says, solidarise with the people of Grenada waging the struggle for social progress, for the ensurance of independence and sovereignty of their country.

In the reply message, the prime minister of Grenada, on behalf of the people's revolutionary government, the people of Grenada expressed deep and sincere gratitude for warm and cordial congratulations to the government and people of the Soviet Union. The messages express the confidence that relations of friendship, varied ties between the Soviet Union and Grenada will continue developing fruitfully for the benefit of the peoples of both countries, in the interests of the strengthening of peace and international cooperation.

CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE ISSUES MAY DAY SLOGANS

PM131209 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Apr 82 p 1

[Text of "CPSU Central Committee Slogans for 1 May 1982"]

[Text] 1. Long live 1 May -- The day of working people's international solidarity in the struggle against imperialism and for peace, democracy and socialism!

2. Proletarians of all countries, unite!

3. Long live Marxism-Leninism -- the everlasting revolutionary international teaching!

4. Long live the Leninist Communist Party of the Soviet Union!

In unity with the people lies the party's strength!

In unity with the party and in the party's leadership lies the people's strength!

5. May the name and cause of Vladimir Ilich Lenin live throughout the ages!

6. Communists! Be in the vanguard of the nationwide struggle to fulfill the historic decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress!

7. Citizens of the Soviet Union! Learn to live, work and struggle in Leninist, communist fashion!

8. Glory to the great Soviet people -- the builders of communism and consistent fighters for peace!

9. Working people of the Soviet Union! Let us mark the 11th 5-Year Plan with shock labor!

May our great multinational motherland become still stronger, richer and more beautiful!

Everything for the good of man, everything in the name of man!

10. Long live the heroic working class of the land of the soviets!

11. Long live the glorious kolkhoz peasantry!

12. Long live the Soviet people's intelligentsia!

13. Long live the unbreakable alliance of the working class, kolkhoz peasantry and people's intelligentsia!

14. Working people of the Soviet Union! Let us greet the 60th anniversary of the USSR's formation with new successes in communist building!

Long live the fraternal friendship and unshakeable unity of all the Soviet Union's nations and nationalities!

15. Long live the USSR Constitution!

Long live socialist democracy!

16. Long live the soviets of people's deputies!

Citizens of the Soviet Union! actively participate in the management of state and social affairs!

17. Citizens of the Soviet Union! On the day of elections to local soviets let us cast our votes for our motherland's best sons and daughters!

Long live the unbreakable bloc of Communists and nonparty people!

18. Long live the Soviet trade unions -- a school of management, school of economic activity, school of communism!

19. Young men and women! Persistently assimilate knowledge, culture and professional skill!

Be conscious fighters for communism!

20. Long live the Lenin Komsomol -- reliable assistant and combat reserve of the Communist Party and leading detachment of Soviet Youth!

21. Long live Soviet women -- active builders of communism!

Glory to mothers!

Peace and happiness to children all over the world!

22. Soviet servicemen! Improve combat and political training!

Vigilantly and reliably guard the Soviet people's peaceful labor and socialism's great gains!

Long live the USSR's valiant armed forces!

23. May the Soviet people's unparalleled feat in the Great Patriotic War live throughout the ages!

Eternal glory to the heroes who fell in the struggle for our motherland's honor, freedom and independence!

24. Working people of the Soviet Union! Accelerate scientific and technical progress!

Ensure intensive development for the economy!

25. Citizens of the Soviet Union! Actively participate in the nationwide movement for economy and thrift!

The economy must be economical!

26. Working people of the Soviet Union! Raise higher the banner of socialist competition!

Let us fulfill and overfulfill the 1982 plan and the 11th 5-Year plan targets!

27. Working people of the Soviet Union:

Create in every labor collective an atmosphere of creativity, comradely mutual assistance and high responsibility for the 5-year plan's fulfillment!

Strengthen conscious communist discipline!

28. Working people of the Soviet Union! Introduce leading production experience and efficient forms of labor organization and encouragement!

Glory to the Red Banner collectives, crack troops [gvardeytsy] of the 5-year plan!

29. Working people of the Soviet Union! Improve labor productivity, efficiency and quality at every workplace!

It is our patriotic and international duty to do shock work!

30. Working people of the Soviet Union! Accelerate the development of the production forces of the Urals, Siberia and the Far East!

Increase the pace of construction of the Baykal-Amur Main Railroad!

31. Working people in the fuel and energy industry! The motherland expects more oil, gas, coal and electricity from you!

32. Soviet metallurgists! Improve production technology!

Improve the quality and exapnd the production of economical metal products!

33. Machine builders! Create highly productive, economical and reliable machines, instruments and means of mechanization and automation!

Accelerate the retooling of all sectors of the national economy!

34. Working people in the chemical industry! More fully meet the requirements of the national economy and the population for chemical products and materials!

35. Working people in industry! Expand the production and improve the quality of goods for the population!

Pay daily attention to the production of consumer goods and to the services sphere!

36. Construction and installation workers! Improve capital investment efficiency!

Build swiftly, well and on a modern technical basis!

37. Working people in transportation and communications! Reliably meet the national economy's requirements!

Improve standards of service to Soviet people!

38. Working people of the Soviet Union! Persistently struggle for the further development of agriculture!

Increase the pace of its mechanization and chemicalization and of land reclamation!

The transformation of the Non-Chernozem Zone is a nationwide task!

39. Kolkhoz members and sovkhoz working people! Improve the efficiency of agriculture!

Make thrifty use of land, equipment and fertilizers!

Excellent quality in the spring fieldwork!

Let us gladden the motherland with a big harvest!

40. Working people in agriculture! Strengthen the fodder base of livestock raising!

Increase the production and sale to the state of meat, milk, eggs, wool and other products!

41. Working people in agricultural machine building! Strengthen the material and technical base of kolkhozes and sovkhozes in every possible way!

Provide agriculture with highly productive and reliable equipment!

42. Working people in the food sectors of industry! Increase production of high-quality food products!

43. Working people in trade, public catering and consumer and municipal services! Improve labor quality and culture and satisfy more fully the demand from the population!

44. Citizens of the Soviet Union! Display a thrifty attitude toward public property! Augment socialist property!

Make a rational use of the country's wealth! Display a solicitous attitude toward nature!

45. Specialists in the national economy! Inventors and rationalizers! Improve equipment, techniques and production management!

46. Soviet scientists! Improve the efficiency of research! May the alliance of science and production strengthen!

Glory to Soviet science!

47. Working people in the state apparatus! Improve the style of work! Be sensitive to Soviet people's needs and demands!

48. People's control personnel! Strengthen control in production and in spheres associated with people's everyday needs!

Struggle energetically to strengthen discipline, economy and thrift!

49. Working people on the ideological front! Convey the party's ideas to the masses with conviction and passion!

50. Personalities in literature and art and working people in culture! Create works worthy of our great motherland!

Bear aloft the banner of Soviet art's ideological commitment, party-mindedness and popular spirit!

51. Working people in public education! Improve the quality of the tuition and the political, labor and moral education of the rising generation!

52. Working people of VUZES and technical colleges! Train ideologically hardened, highly qualified specialists!

Develop science and strengthen the link with production!

53. Working people in public health! Show everyday concern for Soviet people's health! Improve the quality of medical services!

54. Physical culture exponents and sportsmen! Increase the mass nature of the physical culture movement!

55. Glorious veterans! Young people's mentors! Educate the younger generation in the revolutionary, combat and labor traditions of the Communist Party and the Soviet people!

56. Schoolchildren, pupils and students! Study persistently and master knowledge and labor skills!

Warmly love the Soviet motherland! Be active fighters for Lenin's cause, for communism!

57. Long live the Soviet Union's peace-loving Leninist foreign policy!
May the Soviet peace program for the eighties be implemented in full!

58. Fraternal greetings to the communist and workers parties!
Honor and glory to the communists -- courageous fighters for the people's cause!

59. May the unity and cohesion of the whole world's communists strengthen!
Long live proletarian internationalism -- tested and mighty weapon of the international working class!

60. May the invincible alliance of world socialism, the international proletariat and the national liberation movement strengthen!

61. Fraternal greetings to the socialist countries' peoples!

Long live the socialist community countries' unity, cooperation and cohesion and their unshakable determination to strengthen and defend socialism's gains!

62. Fraternal greetings to the heroic Cuban people, who are resolutely opposing American imperialism's intrigues!

63. Fraternal greetings to the heroic Vietnamese people!

64. Fraternal greetings to the courageous Lao people!

65. Fraternal greetings to the courageous Kampuchean people!

66. Fraternal greetings to the Afghan people, who are staunchly defending the April revolution's gains!

67. Frateral greetings to the people of Ethiopia, who have chosen the path of socialist transformations!

68. Fraternal greetings to the peoples of Angola, Mozambique and other African countries, who have chosen the path of socialist development!

69. Fraternal greetings to the working class of the capitalist countries! Glory to fighters against exploitation and oppression by the monopolies, for the working people's rights, and for peace and democracy!

70. Fraternal greetings to the peoples who have liberated themselves from the colonial yoke and to fighters for consolidated national independence and social progress!

71. Warm greetings to Africa's peoples, who are struggling against imperialism and racism and for freedom and independence!

72. Warm greetings to Latin America's peoples, who are struggling against imperialism and reaction and for democratic development for their countries!

73. Warm greetings to El Salvador's patriots, who are waging a selfless struggle against the bloody terror of reaction and imperialist interference and for democracy and social progress!

74. Warm greetings to Nicaragua's heroic people, who are waging a courageous struggle to consolidate the gains of the people's democratic revolution and against imperialism and reaction!

75. Fraternal greetings to Chile's working people and all its democrats, who are waging a selfless struggle against the fascist junta!

76. Fraternal greetings to fighters for freedom, democracy and socialism languishing in fascist torture chambers!

Freedom for prisoners of imperialism and reaction!

77. Warm greetings to the Arab peoples, who are waging the struggle against Israeli aggression and imperialism's diktat!

May Soviet-Arab friendship strengthen!

78. Peoples of European countries! Resolutely oppose the deployment of new American nuclear missile weapons in West Europe! Peace, security and cooperation for Europe.

79. Peoples of the Asian countries! Struggle against imperialism, neocolonialism and hegemonism and for peace and security.

May Asia become a continent of trust and cooperation!

80. Warm greetings to the great Indian people!

May the friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and India develop and strengthen!

81. Peoples of the world! Deal a resolute rebuff to the aggressive intrigues of imperialism, militarism and revanchism!

Let us curb the arms race, deepen detente and remove the threat of war!

82. Peace champions! Augment your efforts in the sacred struggle for the greatest right -- the right to life!

Resolutely advocate the prohibition of nuclear, neutron and chemical weapons!

"No" to nuclear war!

Peace for the world!

83. Long live our great motherland -- the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics!

84. Under the banner of Lenin, under the leadership of the Communist Party -- forward to the victory of communism!

[Signed] CPSU Central Committee

MAKEYEV ATTENDS MURMANSK FISH INDUSTRY MEETING

PM131055 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Mar 82 Morning Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Fisherman's Urgent Tasks"]

[Text] Murmansk -- A meeting of the aktiv of the Northern Basin Fishing Industry [Main Administration], held in Murmansk 23 March, was devoted to ways to increase the efficiency of fishing fleets and onshore processing enterprises. The conference discussed tasks facing northern fishermen and fish processing workers in the 11th 5-Year Plan and questions arising from Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's speech at the 17th congress of trade unions. Participating in the meeting were V.N. Makeyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and V.M. Kamentsev, USSR fish industry minister.

ALIYEV ADDRESSES AZERBAIJAN TU PLENUM

LD091634 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 9 Apr 82

[Text] A plenum of the Azerbaijani Republic Trade Union Council being held in Baku today has been discussing the results of the country's 17th trade congress union and the instructions and recommendations Comrade Brezhnev gave in his speech there. The plenum was addressed by Comrade Aliyev, candidate member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party.

SHEVARDNADZE SPEAKS AT TEAGROWERS CONFERENCE

LD101830 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 10 Apr 82

[Text] Ways to fundamentally improve the quality of Georgian tea were discussed today at Zugdidi by the participants at a conference of Georgian teagrowers. They plan to increase factory space. The range of products will be expanded, to include quality tea. A report was delivered by Comrade Shevardnadze, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee.

SOLOMENTSEV MEETS WITH KAZAKH DELEGATION

LD131624 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 13 Apr 82

[Text] A meeting was held at the RSFSR Council of Ministers today with a delegation from Kazakhstan which has arrived in Moscow to take part in the Republic's Days of Literature and Art in the Russian Federation. During a conversation Comrade Solomentsev, candidate member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, expressed confidence that the forthcoming festival marking the 250th anniversary of Kazakhstan's voluntary unification with Russia will become a fresh, vivid demonstration of the inviolable friendship and unity of the Soviet peoples and the triumph of the Leninist nationalities policy. Comrade Imashev, the leader of the delegation and chairman of the Presidium of the Kazakh Supreme Soviet, spoke of the successes of the republic's labor collectives and thanked the toiling people of the Russian Federation for their constant assistance.

BRIEFS

NEW UZBEK SSR RAYON -- A new rayon has been established close to the Uzbek border in the center of the Kazakh desert. The new rayon has been named Uchbucak. It named its representatives to the (?chairmanship council) of the people's deputies and other organs of the state on 1 March. According to the information given to our correspondent by the Uzbek Supreme Soviet Presidium, nine new rural rayons have been set up in the Uzbek since [words indistinct]. [Text] [Tashkent International Service in Uzbek 1700 GMT 9 Apr 82 GF]

TURKMEN ANTICRIME CONFERENCE -- A republic practicalscientific conference to discuss measures to improve the effectiveness of crime-fighting and infringement of socialist law was held at the Turkmen SSR Academy of Sciences today. The conference was organized by the Turkmen Academy of Sciences, the Scientific Council for Developing State Law conformity in the Turkmen SSR, procurator's offices, the Turkmen Justice Ministry, and the Turkmen Internal Affairs Ministry. The participants in the conference heard a report on strengthening socialist law in the light of the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress presented by the Turkmen procurator. They also heard reports on the role of courts and the republic's law institutions in strengthening socialist law in the republic. The participants in the conference adopted recommendations on improving effectiveness of crime-fighting and infringement of socialist law. The conference was addressed by the deputy chief of the administrative organ of the Turkmen Communist Party Central Committee. [Ashkhabad Domestic Service in Russian 1545 GMT 12 Apr 82 GF]

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED FOR 13 APR

LD140030 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian on 13 April. Times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

To date, early spring grain crops have been sown on 100,000 hectares in Belgorodskaya Oblast. (0600 GMT)

In the Kulunda Steppe, Altayskiy Kray, selective harrowing and the application of mineral fertilizers to winter crops and perennial grasses are underway. Nearly 6 million hectares are to be sown to grain crops, groats and fodder crops in the kray. (0730 GMT)

Potato planting has begun in Belorussia. The crop is to cover 400,000 hectares. (1100 GMT)

SIBERIA'S AGRICULTURAL SHORTCOMINGS VIEWED

PM131101 [Editorial Report] Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian on 23 March carries on pages 1-2 a 2,400-word article entitled "The Nature of the Land" by SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA special correspondents B. Prokhorov, Yu. Shakutin, A. Usoltsev and A. Schegolev on ways of increasing Siberia's contribution to the fulfillment on the Soviet food program. Described as the first in "a series of articles on Siberia and the Far East," the article dwells on the region's dilatoriness in bringing its crop structures into line with changing requirements, particularly the undue emphasis on wheat even in places where oats, barley and rye would produce better yields. The article stressed the value of fallow for boosting and stabilizing yields in conditions prevailing in Siberia, and calls for more vigorous and concerted efforts to expand the soil-conserving system of slope farming, described as "enormously important for the whole of Siberia."

BRIEFS

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY SUPPLIES -- Moscow, 13 Apr (TASS) -- The Soviet state has never before supplied so much machinery to the countryside. The USSR Ministry of Agriculture figures report that this year collective and state farms will receive about 362,000 tractors, 276,000 trucks, and about 116,000 combines, vehicles and horticultural equipment. [Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1430 GMT 13 Apr 82 LD]

TURKMEN COTTON CULTIVATION -- The spring sowing campaign is in progress in the republic. Yesterday the republic's cotton growers planted cotton over (?31,821) hectares of land. A total of 184,579 hectares of land have been planted with cotton to date, which constitutes 36.5 percent of the annual plan. Yesterday the Turkmen cotton growers planted fine-fiber cotton over an area of 14,482 hectares of land. The republic's cotton growers have planted fine-fiber cotton over an area of 109,959 hectares of land to date, thus fulfilling 62.1 percent of the annual plan. Ashkhabad cotton growers have cultivated cotton over (?59,912) hectares of land. Chardzhou Oblast's cotton growers have cultivated 47,819 hectares of land, 47.8 percent of their annual plan. Maryyskaya Oblast's cotton growers have cultivated 64,796 hectares of land. Cotton has been cultivated over 12,052 hectares of land in Tashauz, 9.8 percent of the oblast's annual plan. [Ashkhabad Domestic Service in Russian 1545 GMT 12 Apr 82 GF]

PROGRESS OF 'SPACE SEARCH' SYSTEM NOTED

LD111256 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 11 Apr 82

[Excerpts] The development of an international experimental space search system capable of locating ships and aircraft in distress is being completed.

This is how the system will work: Signals from the emergency radiobuoy installed on board every means of transport in geological and scientific expeditions will be received by a Soviet or American satellite patrolling over the Earth at an altitude of 800,000 kilometers. After processing the signals at points on Earth, the precision in determining the coordinates will be in the range of 1-2 miles. The vessels and aircraft which happen to be in the vicinity of the accident will then receive full information.

The Soviet system is ready for testing. The first rescue satellite will be launched in the Soviet Union during late spring or early summer. An American rescue satellite is expected to be brought into orbit during the winter. After that, the joint testing of equipment will begin.

BRIEFS

EXPEDITION ENDS -- Leningrad, 9 Apr, TASS -- The Soviet polar explorers have left the flat iceberg with a camp of the drifting scientific station North Pole-22 on it. They left behind in the messroom a letter in English and Russian describing their drift in the Arctic as well as a supply of fuel and food. This happened at 86 degrees latitude north within four hundred kilometers of the eastern coast of Greenland, Valery Lukin, chief of the station, radioed to Leningrad today. Thus ended an Arctic expedition, a record one fcr its length, because it lasted for about nine years. (The duration of previous expeditions did not exceed three and a half years). The North Pole-22 station was set up in the autumn of 1973. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 0814 GMT 9 Apr 82 LD]

COMPRESSOR STATION COMPLETED -- Today a state commission accepted from the builders the Novokazymskaya No 6 compressor station built in northern Tyumenskaya Oblast. When it is brought into use at full capacity it will considerably increase the dispatch of natural gas along the Urengoy-Petrovsk pipeline which was laid last year. Builders intend, by the USSR jubilee, to put into use four additional compressor stations -- (Sorumskaya), (Loygyeganskaya), (Peregrebnaya), and [word indistinct]. [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 13 Apr 82 LD]

EXPERIMENTAL TV PROGRAMS -- According to reports from Brussels, people in some Flanders cities (?in) the northwest of Belgium have shown a great interest in experimental broadcasts from Moscow TV. The broadcasts were beamed by a satellite. Belgian television showed selections from one Russian language program. Experts praised the image and sound. [Text] [Moscow World Service in English 1500 GMT 11 Apr 82 LD]

NEW TELEVISION STUDIO -- The Vologodskaya Oblast television studio will begin transmission of its programs in color today. The accelerated development of the network of retransmission stations and radio relay lines has provided 93 percent of the oblast inhabitants the possibility of watching central and local television broadcasts. [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0204 GMT 12 Apr 82 LD]

ARMORED TROOPS CHIEF MARSHAL ROTMISTROV ELEGIZED

PM131627 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Apr 82 p 2

[Excerpts] Hero of the Soviet Union Chief Marshal of Armored Troops Pavel Alekseyevich Rotmistrov, an eminent Soviet military leader and active participant in the civil war and the Great Patriotic War, has died after a serious illness. He devoted his entire conscious life to selflessly serving the people, the socialist motherland and the cause of the Communist Party, which he joined in 1919. P.A. Rotmistrov was born into a peasant family in the village of Skovorovo in Kalininskaya Oblast's Selizharovskiy Rayon in 1901.

After the war P.A. Rotmistrov commanded armored and mechanized troops of the Group of Soviet forces in Germany and in the Far East, headed a department of the K.Ye. Voroshilov Military Academy of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff and was chief of the armored troops military academy. From 1968 he carried out responsible work at the Defense Ministry. P.A. Rotmistrov combined his official activity with pedogogic and military scientific work and was a doctor of military sciences and a professor.

[Signed] L.I. Brezhnev, Yu.V. Andropov, D.F. Ustinov, K.U. Chernenko, I.V. Kapitonov, N.V. Ogarkov, V.G.Kulikov, A.A. Yepishev, S.L. Sokolov, N.I. Savinkin, V.F. Tolubko, V.I. Petrov, A.I. Koldunov, P.S. Kutakhov, S.G. Gorshkov, K.S. Moskalenko, S.K. Kurkotkin, A.T. Altunin, V.M. Shabanov, N.F. Shestopalov, I.N. Shkadov, I.Kh. Bagramyan, P.F. Batitskiy, S.F. Akhromeyev, V.I. Varennikov, A.I. Sorokin, M.G. Sobolev, A.D. Lizichev, A.M. Mayorov, M.D. Popkov, M.M. Kozlov, O.A. Losik, Yu.M. Potapov, A.S. Zheltov, I.I. Gusakovskiy, P.P. Poluboyarov, A.L. Getman, S.I. Rudenko, P.I. Batov, D.D. Lelyushenko, V.N. Baskakov, V.N. Dutov.